



Poll boost as jobless total drops 96,000

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Unemployment recorded one of its sharpest-ever falls last month, government figures showed. The adult jobless total has now fallen for three months running and ministers and officials believe the trend is firmly downwards.

The improvement in the unemployment figures, which particularly reflects the impact of government employment measures, will add to the belief that the Prime Minister will call a general election soon after a tax-cutting Budget next spring.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the employment minister, said: "Today's figures provide more than evidence that the job picture is becoming brighter. Unemployment is down again for the third month running, and the three-month drop is the biggest since 1973. All the signs are that Britain's economy is steadily getting people back to work."

Later, on BBC radio, Mr Clarke said: "Personally, I am not an early election man." But he added: "If we have more months of good figures, obviously I am going to get ever more confident about how that election will go whenever it does come."

The unemployment total, including school leavers, fell by 95,743 to 3,237,154 last month. This was the sharpest monthly fall since May 1983 - the month before the last general election - when rule changes produced a drop in the total of more than 120,000. Apart from May 1983, it was the biggest monthly fall since 1971.

The more representative unemployment figure, the seasonally adjusted adult total, fell by 25,000 to 3,167,600 last month, after a 26,400 decline in September. In the past three months, this total has fallen by an average of 18,500 a month, the best figure since the period September-November 1973.

There was more good news for the Government with the publication yesterday of official figures showing a sharp rise in manufacturing output in September. Output jumped by 1.2 per cent and, in the latest three months, was up by 1.3 per cent on the previous three months.

Vacancies are also rising strongly, although they represent only a fraction of the unemployment total. Seasonally adjusted vacancies rose by 6,400 to 212,800 last month - their highest since these statistics began in January 1980.

Although there are indications that the labour market has strengthened in recent months, the dominant factor in reducing the unemployment total appears to have been the expansion of the Community Programme and Restart.

The average monthly fall in adult unemployment over the six months to October was 5,400, almost matching the 5,000 people a month taken off the register by the expansion of the Community Programme and Restart.

Restart programme, which offers the long-term unemployed counselling and directs them into training, special schemes and employment, became a national scheme in July. Its effects will have shown through in the August unemployment figures, and this is when adult jobless figures began falling.

The uncertainties over the impact of Restart has meant that officials are cautious about underlying unemployment trends. The belief is that the trend is clearly downwards but officials refused to be drawn on the likely pace of any future declines.

Opposition politicians concentrated their attack on the changes in the unemployment rules and statistics. Mr John Prescott, Labour's chief employment spokesman, described these changes as "a combination of fiddles, temporary schemes and intimidation."

The new, tighter availability-for-work interviews, which started at the end of last month, did not affect the October unemployment count, but could have an impact in subsequent months.

Today's figures are on target for a Tory general election fraud of less than three million on the unemployment register," Mr Prescott added yesterday.

Whatever Lord Young claims, his concern is for the long-term unemployment figures rather than the long-term unemployed.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth, the SDP economics spokesman, said: "After seven long years of this Government, this country still has one of the worst jobless records in the developed world."

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Output up 25
Figures analysed 27

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Sharing the honours: The Queen and Mr Frederick Koch, one of America's most generous arts patrons who gave £2 million towards the new Swan Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, unveiling plaques at the theatre's official opening yesterday. (Photograph: John Manning)

US and the Iranian weapons furore

Shady net of dealers uncovered

From Christopher Thomas Washington

An international network of ships and planes, supported by mysterious middlemen who charter vessels from legitimate and shady companies, exists for the sole purpose of ferrying US military equipment to Iran, according to details that began emerging yesterday.

Last July, for example, an American-registered Boeing 707 is understood to have delivered 23 tons of military equipment to the Iranian armed forces. Three weeks later Rev Lawrence Jenca, a Roman Catholic priest and head of the Beirut office of Catholic Relief Services, was released by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon after 18 months in captivity.

It seems that each time an arms delivery has been made, a hostage has been released. In the meantime, however, more American hostages were still being taken in Beirut.

According to accounts surfacing in Washington, a

plane that had carried an arms shipment to Iran left Tehran on September 14, 1985, the same day that Rev Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian missionary in Lebanon, was released after 10 months' captivity.

That plane, a DC-8, is believed to have taken military equipment on board in Israel before heading for Iran and American officials have been quoted as saying the delivery was in return for the release of Mr Weir.

Shortly before the mission, the plane had been bought from a Florida dealer by International Air Tours of Nigeria, based in Brussels. It is not known who chartered it.

Continued on page 24, col 3

Arms supplied but not in hostage deal, says Reagan

From Michael Binyon, Washington

On the eve of a televised address from the Oval Office breaking the White House silence on the Iranian arms furore, President Reagan admitted to key congressional leaders that American arms had been sent to Tehran and indicated he would continue contacts there.

Unexpectedly summoning House and Senate leaders to the White House, he is reported to have strongly denied that the arms were sent in direct exchange for hostages.

Mr Reagan told the four senators and congressmen that he still hoped the current

secret negotiations would lead to the release of two more hostages and insisted his efforts were "perfectly legal".

They quoted him afterwards saying the Administration would not be doing its job "if Khomeini died and we had not made an effort to lay the groundwork for contacts with a future regime".

Senator Robert Byrd, the Democrat majority leader-designate, said after the brief-

ing: "I haven't changed my mind."

Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican, said yesterday that the Senate's constitutional subcommittee, which he chairs, would hold hearings on the arms shipments.

Senator Patrick Leahy, the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the deal had put an automatic price on the head of any American working or travelling in that part of the world.

US officials have said the US is negotiating with Iran on the final details of the return of nearly \$500 million (£349 million) frozen in the US Federal Reserve Bank in New York in 1981.

The confusion in the Administration over the affair has been deepened with publication of reports that Admiral John Poindexter, the National Security Adviser, vigorously opposed calls by Mr Donald Regan, the White House Chief of Staff, for a full explanation becoming involved in a shouting match in front of the President as the news was leaked from the Middle East.

Continued on page 24, col 2

Fresh blow to hopes for a teachers' deal

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

After more than five days of negotiations on teachers' pay which began in Nottingham and have continued at the London headquarters of the conciliation service Acas, teachers and local authorities were dealt a further blow last night.

Mr Philip Merridale, leader of the Conservative minority among the local authorities, revealed that the Tory authorities had voted against the conditions of service element in the package as too costly.

"These proposals would involve the recruitment and payment of more than 10,000 teachers. The resources being talked of are massive, and certainly outside the cost envelope set by the Government," he said.

"We would be on dangerous territory if we agree to make undertakings which we cannot follow through."

Mr Peter Dawson of the Professional Association of Teachers, also appeared to be losing patience with the negotiating process. He conceded it might now be time for the Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, "to step in and sort us out".

He said that Mr Baker could have seen nothing during the past six days to make him think twice about his threat to legislate and impose his own solution.

It emerged yesterday that the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), which represents 70 per cent of heads in England and Wales, is more alienated than ever by the emerging deal.

Having already expressed his grave reservations about salary structure, Mr David Hart, NAHT general secretary, revealed yesterday that his union was out on a limb on

the subject of new negotiating machinery for pay and conditions.

NAHT were arguing, apparently with little sympathy, for a separate body to discuss salaries and working conditions for heads and their deputies.

Mr Baker yesterday ruled out the provision of more money to settle the pay dispute and warned teachers that they would not be forgiven if they disrupted education (Our Chief Political Correspondent writes).

In a Commons speech which provoked an angry clash with Mr Neil Kinnock.

Mr Baker emphasised that any deal which exceeded the £608 million cost of the package he announced two weeks ago would be unacceptable.

And he labelled the talks in London and in Nottingham earlier in the week "a fiasco".

Cheered on by Conservative MPs, he said: "The offer which I have put forward is generous. It is sufficiently generous to resolve the problem."

He added: "Any teacher who disrupted education in the coming weeks and months will do an enormous disservice to the children and will not be lightly forgiven."

He said parents of children who were sent home or locked out would not forgive the teachers, "and nor would the country".

Tomorrow

Winter sports?



Cricket: John Woodcock reports from Brisbane on the First Test
Tennis: Rex Bellamy previews the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges championships from Wembley

Portfolio Gold

There was no winner again yesterday in the Times Portfolio Gold competition so today there is £12,000 to be won, treble the usual daily prize.

Portfolio list, page 31; how to play, information service, page 24.

TIMES BUSINESS

Dealing upset

Dealings on the Stock Exchange were disrupted again when its computerized dealing system was shut down temporarily amid its worst problems since its launch. Page 25

£41m spree

The New Zealand entrepreneur, Mr Ron Brierley, has raised his stake in Ocean Transport and Trading to 23.6 per cent in a £41 million share-buying spree. Page 25

£271m bid

Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Turner & Newall, is making a new offer of £271 million in cash and shares for the AE group. Page 25

TIMES SPORT

Cash wins

Pat Cash, of Australia, followed his victory over John McEnroe by beating Sergio Casal, of Spain, to reach the quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges tennis championships at Wembley. Page 40

Gorbachov lobbies Thatcher

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, yesterday sent the Prime Minister a personal letter on the eve of her flight to Washington for a major review of arms control prospects with President Reagan.

Their talks at Camp David on Saturday will be set against a background of growing pessimism on arms control. Mr Gorbachov's letter, delivered by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Ambassador, who spent half an hour with Mrs

Thatcher, was seen as an attempt at last minute lobbying. Whitehall sources discouraged speculation that the letter represented a Soviet effort to use Mrs Thatcher as a go-between.

Mr Gorbachov is thought to have repeated his call for talks based on the Soviet version of what the President and Mr Gorbachov agreed at Reykjavik last month. His contention - disputed by the Americans - is that the President approved the elimination of all nuclear weapons over 10 years.

A statement from the Soviet Embassy showed no softening of Moscow's demand that any arms settlement would depend on Washington agreeing not to test the Strategic Defence Initiative laser-based anti-missile system in space. Continued on page 24, col 6

Fire ends Peterhead jail siege

By Howard Foster

The five-day siege at Peterhead prison in Scotland ended spectacularly yesterday as rioting prisoners set fire to their cell block before giving themselves up and releasing their hostage prison officer unharmed.

Fires, from wooden roof struts and debris, were started in two places in the prison's A-Hall just as the warden, Mr John Crossan, aged 25, was freed.

Flames were soon shooting several feet through the roof of the cellblock and as the 49 rioters fled out of the building fire engines drove through the jail gates. About 50 other prisoners in an adjoining block were evacuated.

The fire was put out after about an hour. Damage is estimated at up to £1 million. The prisoners are thought to have started the blaze in the mistaken belief that one of their leaders, Andrew Walker, a triple murderer, had been seized after going to an interview room to relay a list of grievances to a newspaper reporter.

The prisoners' demands involve the relocation of the prison to make visits easier for families.

The prison governor, Mr Alf Smith, praised his men for their handling of the siege.

Mr Albert McQuarrie, Conservative MP for Banff and Buchan, last night rejected any allegations of brutality and called for an independent inquiry.

Man about town, 1986-style

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

A typical visitor to a West End theatre is a young man who reads *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* to check what's on, makes a final choice on the recommendation of friends, and buys his ticket on the day of the performance.

He prefers to go with a companion, rather than in a group, to travel by underground, and to dine before the show. If he is resident in London, he is more likely to come from Camden than any other borough; if not, he is more likely to come from Essex than any other county.

The profile of the careful spender (a shared programme, and ice-cream rather than drinks at the interval) emerges

from an audience survey by the City University, for the Society of West End Theatre.

According to the report, published yesterday, the average theatre-goer has changed considerably since the last survey of its kind in 1982.

Audiences have swelled from 8.8 million in 1983 to more than 10 million in 1985, largely due to a huge influx of foreign visitors.

Most of the new business has come from men, who now outnumber women with 51 per cent of attendances, and they tend to be younger - more than half are under the age of 35.

Commons to debate Aids crisis

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

The Government has responded to the mounting public concern over Aids by arranging a full day's debate on the issue in the Commons next Friday.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, will tell MPs of the Government's latest efforts, through the special Cabinet committee on Aids, to counter

the spread of the disease, and how it will spend the £10m it has allocated for the newspaper and television campaign advocating "safe" sex techniques.

Mr John Biffen, leader of the Commons, announced the debate yesterday.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, called on the Government to announce how it would help to deal with the disease with the speed and funding that was necessary.

He said: "It would be immensely unfortunate if what has been described as the Prime Minister's war on Aids were to be cash-limited."

Collier's case goes to ministry

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

The Stock Exchange yesterday announced that it had referred the case of Mr Geoffrey Collier to the Government to investigate an allegation of insider dealing in the stock market.

Mr Collier was forced to resign as a director of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, earlier this week because of share dealings carried out through outside brokers - in breach of house rules.

Insider trading, the use of privileged information to profit from share dealing, was made illegal in 1980.

Mr Collier was forced to resign after dealing in the shares of AE, the engineering company, shortly before it was the subject of a bid by one of Morgan Grenfell's clients.

But the affair seemed to be widening yesterday with suggestions that others had been involved in the share dealings.

An employee of Scrimgeour Vickers, the stock broker which informed Morgan Grenfell of the share dealings, may have been involved.

Scrimgeour would not comment last night after a request. Continued on page 24, col 2

Last day for Gas priority

By Martin Baker

Today is the last day for British Gas customers to register their priority in the queue for privatization shares.

More than £4½ billion has been set aside for British Gas employees, customers and other private investors, but only those with priority can be certain they will receive shares.

Research suggests that more than 3.25 million people are certain to buy shares.

The prospectus, with application form, will be issued on November 25. Priority can be registered by calling British Gas on 0272 272 272.

20 per cent 'yield', page 25

Man dies practising TV stunt

A television stunt for tomorrow's BBC 1 *Late Late Breakfast Show* went tragically wrong yesterday when a participant training for an escapology display plunged to his death.

Mr Michael Lush, aged 25, a self-employed builder, of Southampton, was ascending down a rope tied to a box hanging from a crane about 100 feet above the ground at Long Crendon, near Thame when it snapped. He had been handcuffed in the box before freeing himself.

Mr Lush was taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, where he later died.



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TO: THE BRITISH HOME AND HOSPITAL FOR INCURABLES, CROWN LANE, STREATHAM, LONDON SW16 3JL. TEL: 01-870 6261. PATRICK HERMANS, MRS. ELLIEN, THE G. 125 YEARS OF SERVICE. Please find enclosed my donation for: £5 £10 £25 £50 £100 per-computer. Please charge my Access Visa or a.s.b. (if appropriate). No. Please send me details of our Life Governor Scheme. Signature: Name: Address: CHARTERED NO. 20422 1986

NEWS SUMMARY

Vauxhall tackles absentee blight

More than 8,000 Vauxhall employees have been told that the level of absenteeism at the Luton-based car company is unacceptable. The company, facing losses of £60 million this year, estimates that at least £7 million of that will be caused by absenteeism.

A company spokesman said yesterday: "This is not a witch-hunt... But there have been people in our plant who have been abusing the system and they are costing their colleagues and the company money."

Absenteeism at the company is about 13 per cent - double the national average - and the problem is particularly bad on Mondays and Fridays.

Vauxhall has identified workers whose attendance record is poor and they will be asked whether they have an identifiable health problem. If their attitude is deemed unreasonable, the company will consider dismissal.

More Legion cases

Three more cases of Legionnaires' disease have been found in Gloucestershire where an outbreak has killed a man aged 62.

Health chiefs said yesterday that the three had recovered after treatment for pneumonia. The cases came to light after checks on 27 pneumonia cases.

Costly theme

Mr Peter de Savary, aged 42, appeared at Markborough Magistrates' Court in Wiltshire, yesterday, charged with 44 breaches of building regulations at Littlecote, his theme park.

Mr de Savary denied all charges and the case against him was dismissed after Kennet council offered no evidence. His company, and a consultant, Mr John Taylor, were found guilty of not informing the council of work being done and fined a total of £17,200.

Secrets charge

A man accused of breaking the Official Secrets Act was sent for trial by magistrates at Taunton, Somerset, yesterday.

Mark Jackson, aged 30, whose address was given as the Royal Ulster Constabulary headquarters in Belfast, is accused of unlawfully retaining documents and also of communicating documents "while an officer of the Queen" to Julian Ritchie.

He was given bail until the trial at Exeter Crown Court.

Duchess calls in

The Queen Mother, making good progress as she rested her injured leg, was visited yesterday by the Duchess of York in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers.

The Duchess, wearing a white pullover and trousers, spent about 10 minutes at the London hospital after arriving by car with a detective. Earlier, Clarence House had said the Queen Mother, aged 86, had spent a comfortable night.

Flowers from well-wishers continued to arrive at the hospital. The Queen Mother who suffered the injury in Scotland about three weeks ago, was admitted on Tuesday.

Murrell inquiries

Detectives in West Mercia yesterday ended their questioning of a man, aged 32, about the murder of the peace campaigner, Miss Hilda Murrell (right), at Shrewsbury two years ago.

The man is due to appear in court in London today, on charges of murdering two elderly women and raping a girl, aged 14.



Tebbit wins MPs' backing over break with students

Tory chief accused of left witch-hunt

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Conservative backbenchers yesterday solidly supported Mr Norman Tebbit's decision to sever his party's links with the Federation of Conservative Students.

MPs from both the right and the left said that after the recent outcry over allegations in a federation magazine that Lord Stockton was guilty of "war crimes", the Conservative chairman had no option but to curb the young radicals.

But last night Mr Harry Phibbs, aged 20, the libertarian activist responsible for the offending interview in the now defunct *New Agenda*, said Mr Tebbit had made a "serious mistake".

He blamed leftists in Central Office for orchestrating a witch-hunt against the ultra-right federation.

He was seeking an urgent meeting with the party chairman in an attempt to persuade him to overturn his decision to cut off its £30,000 a year grant and give it a week to leave its office in Smith Square.

The federation at national level is being replaced by a new body known as the Conservative Collegiate Forum.

That 20-member group, charged with galvanizing Tory support in universities and polytechnics among students and academics, will be chaired by Mr Peter Morrison, the recently appointed deputy chairman of the Conservative Party.

Mr Morrison said yesterday that the decision to break with the federation had been taken because some of the leadership, with the notable excep-

tion of Mr John Bercow, its chairman, among others, had not been attracting the support of students in the way hoped.

They have been taking up rather narrow positions," he said.

The new forum would be made up of 12 area representatives and eight others drawn from postgraduate and academic circles.

The changes were unanimously approved yesterday by the executive of the National Union of Conservative Associations, which will decide next year whether to disaffiliate the network of campus-based federation branches.

Mr Bercow, who has consistently backed Mr Tebbit's tough stance, will stay on at Smith Square on his sabbatical salary and join the new organization.

He blamed the federation's demise on "a minority of recalcitrant individuals" on its controlling national committee.

That "barney" fringe had been more interested in grabbing power and "sticking knives" into its internal opponents than campaigning on behalf of the party.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4, he said: "The difficulty has arisen by virtue of the fact that a lot of extremely good activists are at local level and some of the trouble-makers have unfortunately been at the very top".

Mr Gerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, said the federation had come to represent the "unacceptable face of conservatism" through some of

its members espousing "tacky, seamy" causes such as the legalization of incest and heroin.

Mr Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, a free-market right-winger, said he had defended the federation's right to speak out in the past, but it had tested even his patience.

"I am not surprised at this development. Not many years will be shed."

Mr Brown said the shake-up should be seized as an opportunity to reconsider the party's approach to the youth vote, both inside and outside universities.

Mr Phibbs said that Mr Tebbit's decision had been unexpected and would cause astonishment and disappointment among the federation's 14,000 members.

He claimed the move was prompted by "people in Central Office who have no time for Mrs Margaret Thatcher and are very much on the left of the Conservative Party". They had been "gunning" for the federation since 1980.

He contrasted the federation's loyalty to Mr Tebbit with the activities of the "wet-led" Young Conservatives who, he said, earlier this year had issued a statement describing him as a "political mugger".

He said the federation still has tremendous admiration for Mr Tebbit. "And I hope our members will get on with promoting the Conservative cause and not be too distracted by these organizational problems in London," Mr Phibbs added.



Mr Phibbs yesterday, when he complained of a witch-hunt.

Cabinet plans MI5 documents black-out

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

The Government plans to fight all the way any further attempt by the defence lawyers, in the case involving the former MI5 officer, Mr Peter Wright, to acquire top-secret documents about past activities of the security service.

Counsel for Mr Wright and the Heinemann company of Australia, which hopes to publish his book on MI5, will seek a further order from Mr Justice Powell in the New South Wales Supreme Court today to make the Government hand over much more sensitive documents than were released on Wednesday.

In particular, the lawyers want the documents released which relate to the Government's conclusions that the late Sir Roger Hollis, the former director-general of MI5, was not a Soviet spy, which the Prime Minister announced in her statement to the House of Commons in 1981.

A senior Whitehall source said yesterday: "If we hand over these very sensitive documents, where will it stop? This whole issue is about confidentiality. If a former member of the security service is seen to be able to breach the rules of confidentiality, it will send the wrong signals to those people who deal with MI5, in other words intelligence agents from other countries."

The source added: "The danger is that if former officers of MI5 disclose information to the media, other agencies will be less keen to pass on information to the security service."

The plan by the Government to appeal against any further order for more documents will inevitably delay the start of the court case in Sydney.

Mr Wright left MI5 11 years ago and emigrated to Australia. Now 71, he lives in seclusion in Tasmania and feels he has a duty to clear out the stables once and for all, to ensure that "the firm", as the security service is known, can operate with an untainted reputation.

In 1984 he produced a 160-page dossier, *The Security of the United Kingdom Against the Assault of the Russian Intelligence*, which he sent to Sir Anthony Kershaw, the Tory MP for Stroud and chairman of the Commons select committee on foreign affairs.

The dossier, which was kept secret, was also seen by the head of the security service and Mrs Thatcher. But in July 1984 he appeared in a television programme by Granada's *World in Action*, in which he disclosed all his allegations and insisted that he was 99 per cent sure that Sir Roger Hollis was a double agent.

Mr Wright spent many years, both during his time with MI5 and after he left, investigating Soviet penetration of Britain's intelligence services, and in particular the allegations against Sir Roger, and is so convinced of his own findings that he offered to come to Britain to appear before the Security Commission.

He was shocked when he was told that he would be arrested once he stepped foot on British soil.

His book is an examination of the history of Soviet penetration of MI5 between 1958 and 1975, the years when he was a member, as well as detailing allegedly unlawful acts by MI5, including a plot to assassinate President Nasser during the Suez crisis and a bugging operation mounted against No 10 when then Mr Harold Wilson was Prime Minister.

Bradford City fire

Club lays blame for tragedy

By Ian Smith

Bradford City Football Club, where 36 spectators died in a grandstand fire in May 1985, yesterday began its evidence in the High Court in Leeds in an attempt to rebuild its reputation and save its finances.

Within minutes of opening his defence at the High Court in Leeds, Mr Roy McAuley, QC, for the club, blamed the tragedy on the club's co-defendants, the Government's Health and Safety Executive and West Yorkshire County Council.

The hearing will decide whether the club, the execu-

Life sentence for 'designer drug' dealers

By Tim Jones

The Government yesterday launched a pre-emptive strike against "designer drugs" by announcing that making or supplying such drugs will attract a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The synthetic drugs, which have swept parts of the United States, can be up to a hundred times stronger than heroin. Addicts have suffered brain damage.

Designer drugs are not a problem in Britain, but dealers would not technically be committing an offence. While pethidine and fentanyl are controlled drugs certain of their analogues, from which designer drugs are made, are not.

However, the Home Office Minister of State, Mr David Mellor, extended the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971 to cover uncontrolled analogues from April 1.

NUM wins back-pay with pension changes

By Tim Jones

More than 92,000 miners are to receive £350 each in back-pay after agreement by the National Union of Mineworkers' national executive to accept changes in the industry's pension scheme.

It is understood that the £32 million offer was accepted in spite of opposition from Mr Arthur Scargill, union president. The agreement was welcomed by British Coal, which regarded it as the last outstanding issue of the bitter 12-month pit strike.

The pension scheme rules will be amended to make it clear that future strikes lasting longer than one complete week will not count as contributing service. But miners will be able to "buy back" for pension purposes periods lost through unauthorized absence.

National Trust plan to restore historic estate

By John Young

An ambitious scheme to restore one of the great historic estates of Wales, owned until 10 years ago by the reputed descendants of medieval kings, was launched yesterday by Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the National Trust.

Dinefwr Park, near Llanddelfo, was a royal estate long before the Norman Conquest and was the focal point of a protracted power struggle between warring feudal lords.

The restoration has been initiated by a notable range of organizations, including the Welsh Office, the World Wild-

Engagement a 'family thing'

By Tim Jones

The Prime Minister's son, Mr Mark Thatcher, and his fiancée, Miss Diane Burgdorf, faced photographers and television crews for a short time at 10 Downing Street yesterday.

But the couple refused to allow reporters into the session, would not answer questions, and even hid the engagement ring from the cameramen.

The only time Mark Thatcher, aged 33, spoke was when he told the photographers: "It's a family thing," after they asked him again for a look at the ring.

Reporters had been refused entry on the personal instructions of the younger Mr Thatcher, who is known to shun publicity.

Mr Thatcher and Miss Burgdorf, who is the daughter of a Dallas businessman, will have lunch at Downing Street today and are expected to return to the United States at the weekend.

Mr Thatcher, who is the Dallas representative for Lotus Cars, first met Miss Burgdorf about 18 months ago.

The announcement of their engagement came on the eve of Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington.

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More than 92,000 miners are to receive £350 each in back-pay after agreement by the National Union of Mineworkers' national executive to accept changes in the industry's pension scheme.

It is understood that the £32 million offer was accepted in spite of opposition from Mr Arthur Scargill, union president. The agreement was welcomed by British Coal, which regarded it as the last outstanding issue of the bitter 12-month pit strike.

The pension scheme rules will be amended to make it clear that future strikes lasting longer than one complete week will not count as contributing service. But miners will be able to "buy back" for pension purposes periods lost through unauthorized absence.

Firm to close second factory

By Tim Jones

The Robyns children's clothes group, which closed a factory in Derby last week with the loss of 100 jobs, said yesterday that it is to shut its factory in Wirksworth, Derbyshire, with the loss of about 30 jobs.

The announcement of their engagement came on the eve of Mrs Thatcher's visit to Washington.



The Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher with their son, Mark, and his fiancée, Miss Diane Burgdorf.

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BBC draws up code for stricter checks on portraying TV violence

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

The BBC promised yesterday to exercise more care in the portrayal of violence on television, especially in news programmes.

Mr Will Wyatt, chairman of a committee of BBC executives that produced the new guidelines, said last night that the expansion of satellite communications has resulted in a large increase in the number of violent news stories available to editors.

The new guidelines call for restraint. News programmes "should and will shock viewers at times" but editors should never show violence gratuitously because the more viewers are shocked, the more it will take to shock them in the future.

Pictures of bodies should be used only with great care and close-ups should be avoided save in exceptional circumstances. Grief should be portrayed with restraint and reports of suicides may include the method if relevant but not the details of it.

Mr Wyatt said that with minor exceptions, the new guidelines do not set stricter standards for violence than previous BBC rules. But they do spell out the corporation's policy in a shorter, crisper manner, and are intended to be easier to apply in practice.

The guidelines are being distributed to programme makers and will be reinforced by an internal video illustrating the decisions that must be taken before violent acts are shown.

When it is necessary to include scenes of violence in dramas and films, the guidelines say that producers must make efforts to ensure that the audience knows what is in prospect, "so that viewers are

not ambushed by offensive material".

That is to be achieved by announcements before programmes begin and through *Radio Times* and newspapers.

Violent programmes will not be identified by the use of on-screen symbols because that may encourage viewing for the wrong reason.

The guidelines do not bar the use of violent portrayals. "Violence is part of both nature and society," the BBC said.

But decisions on whether to include violent material in any television programme are complicated and subtle, the new guidelines state.

Different criteria apply for programmes to be shown before the 9pm "watershed" when children are expected to be watching, and afterwards, when audiences are presumed to be more mature.

But whenever a drama is to contain violence, producers must consider who is committing the act, whether the viewer is meant to identify with the perpetrator, whether the perpetrator appears to be enjoying the violence, and is the violence essential to the story.

Viewers are likely to be particularly disturbed by scenes of domestic violence, sexual violence, cruelty to children and animals and extreme or sustained violence of any kind.

There is also a danger that techniques of violence can seem admirable, can be imitated. Martial arts techniques and any violence with ropes (especially hangings) and with domestic knives should only be included with extreme care.

Although there is a comparatively small number of complaints about violence in dramas produced by the BBC itself (the biggest cause of viewer complaints is bad language), these can be further reduced if programme makers exercise commonsense, the guidelines say.

In programmes acquired from outside the BBC, content cannot be controlled in the production process, but must nevertheless be made to conform to the corporation's editorial policy.

Violence in purchased material, particularly American programmes, is often different in style and emphasis than in BBC-made dramas, and guns are used more frequently.

In general, this seems acceptable to the audience which is aware that it is a fact of life in the US to find guns in the hands of the police and ordinary citizens.

The BBC has rejected a number of films, including *The Exorcist*, *Friday the Thirteenth* and *Straw Dogs*, because they were too graphic.

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers and Listeners Association, a frequent critic of the BBC, said last night that the new guidelines were admirable in themselves, but she remained sceptical.

"What they need is to ensure that the guidelines they have are put into practice."

Tighter controls on the advertising of toys on television are being considered to reduce the "over-emotional" appeal used by some advertisers (Our Political Staff writes).

The Independent Broadcasting Authority is to hold talks with toy makers and advertisers to meet complaints. But that will not affect toy advertisements shown in the run-up to Christmas.



Lesley Manville on stage at the Lyric, Hammersmith, where she will star in *Alice in Wonderland*, said to be the first production for 100 years. The show, which opens on December 18, is an adaptation by John Wells and Carl Davis (Photograph: John Rogers).

Campaign to simplify contract language

By Robin Young

A campaign launched today aims to outlaw bad language in standard consumer contracts.

The National Consumer Council and the Plain English Campaign, who have joined forces, are not objecting to the profound or obscene - they simply want contracts to be written in easily understood English.

Miss Chrissie Maber of the Plain English Campaign, said yesterday: "Using gibberish makes it easy for firms to pull the wool over the eyes of customers".

As a first step the NCC and Plain English Campaign are collecting examples of cases in which people claim to have suffered financial or other loss because they signed a contract form which they did not understand.

One case already discovered involves a television hire agreement which took 114 words and cross-references to two other sections and a schedule to inform readers that if they signed for a year's hire they could not have a refund if the set was returned early.

The address to which other examples should be sent is: Plain English Campaign, Vernon House, Whaley Bridge, Stockport, SK12 7HP.

M6 crash driver 'was travelling too fast'

A coach driver involved in a motorway pile-up in which 13 people died did not apply his brakes until the last second, a jury was told yesterday.

Mr John Bonnyman attempted to reduce his speed when he was almost on top of a queue of traffic, it was said at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire. By that time it was too late.

The court also was told of allegations that the stretch of the M6, at Barton, was inadequately serviced by roadwork signs at the time of the crash in October last year.

Mr Bonnyman, aged 63, of Miller Place, Edinburgh, denies four charges of causing death by reckless driving.

His coach, heading to London from Edinburgh, crashed into a car which was flung through the air in flames. Attempts to free two people in the blazing car failed.

Mrs Yvonne Bowker, of Balmoral Drive, Stockport, a passenger in a car travelling behind the coach, told the court she thought it was travelling too fast.

She said: "He was two coach-lengths away from cars in front before he braked. It was more or less as he touched the cars when his lights came on."

Her husband, Mr Brian Bowker, said a car struck by the coach flew through the air. He added: "Everything became still. There was just a moment of silence until the fire spread and everybody started dashing about."

Mr William Grimshaw, a lorry driver, of Kendal, Cumbria, who was travelling in the opposite direction, said the coach had travelled towards a build-up of traffic near roadworks as though there was a clear road ahead.

"There was a tremendous clout," Mr Grimshaw said. "It seemed to climb over the car, which then exploded."

In a written statement, Gillian McAvery, an optician, from Hampshire, criticized inadequate signs warning drivers of a two-lane closure.

"There was not enough notice to drivers on a busy motorway that there was danger," she said.

Mr William Waldron, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged that Mr Bonnyman crashed at about 60mph. The trial continues today.

Maxwell praised for his courage

Lord Elwyn Jones, the former Attorney General and Lord Chancellor, and a friend of Mr Robert Maxwell and his family for 30 years, told the High Court yesterday of the publisher's "moral and physical courage".

He said it "was manifested on the battlefield when he came from his own country, having suffered the loss of some members of his family by the Nazis."

"I think he was one of only a few private soldiers to be commissioned on the field and had Montgomery personally pin a Military Cross on his chest. These things are not forgotten in my mind."

"He is a pretty tough character. I don't think he is adverse to self publicity. The hearing continues."

Dismissed printer denies attack

By Michael Hornsell

A dismissed printer accused of attacking a journalist, who worked for *The Times*, with a beer glass denied yesterday having been in the public house at the time.

Mr Robin Shirfield, aged 46, who worked for *The Times* before the newspaper moved to Wapping, east London, last January, told Southwark Crown Court, in south London: "I can assure you it was not me."

Mr Shirfield denies a charge of wounding Mr Christopher Warman, aged 48.

The alleged incident happened in February at the Pakenham Arms near *The Times'* former offices in Gray's Inn Road, central London.

Girls are expelled over drugs

Three sixth form girls boarded at Wymondham College in Norfolk have been expelled for taking drugs at an eighteenth birthday party, it was disclosed yesterday.

A day youth who took the girls to a drug dealer in Norwich has left of his own accord and 11 other pupils have been suspended for drinking.

Mr Ronald Wolsey, the college head, said: "This is the first time we have had any hint of drug-taking and we will not tolerate such behaviour."

The girls, who were violently ill, admitted to Mr Wolsey that they had paid £2 for amphetamines.

Norfolk police are investigating.

Teddy bear for £520

A German teddy bear, made 90 years ago and kept on top of a great-grandmother's wardrobe, has fetched £520 at auction.

Mrs Mary Cockram, aged 76, of Seaton, East Devon, whose teddy was given to her late husband 77 years ago, plans to buy a new microwave oven with the money.

Ferry suicide

Mr Charanjit Dosagh, a law graduate, jumped overboard from a ferry on its way from Ostend to Dover after passing law examinations, but being unable to get a job, an inquest at Hammersmith was told yesterday.

A verdict of suicide was recorded on Mr Dosagh, aged 24, of Kingston Road, Southall, west London.

Battle against Aids

Tell pupils of gay sex, says Currie

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Schoolchildren should be taught about homosexuality as part of the fight against Aids, according to Mrs Edwina Currie, the Under Secretary for Health.

In an interview published yesterday which seemed certain to upset many on the right of her party, Mrs Currie came down clearly in favour of an explicit campaign against the Aids disease.

She told *New Society* magazine that she favoured a policy of "calling a spade a spade" and that she despised the "young fogies" in her party who were offended by four-letter words. She believed the public wanted to be told frankly what the facts were.

But it was her remarks about sex education which will most upset Tory colleagues.

Forty-three Conservative MPs rebelled against the Government last month over its plans to make governors the arbiters of what sex education was given in schools; they wanted parents to have the

New drug needs more tests, makers insist

By Alexandra Jackson

The head of the Wellcome company yesterday countered criticism about its anti-Aids drug, Azidothymidine (AZT), which is under going trials.

Mr Alfred Sheppard, chairman and chief executive, was replying to claims that Wellcome was slow to make the drug available to individual doctors and was thought to be unable to produce adequate quantities of AZT to meet demand.

Mr Sheppard, speaking after the publication of the group's results for the year to the end of August 1986, emphasized that the group was aware of the importance of the work it was undertaking on Aids. But he said: "AZT is still a drug on trial."

"We have only been working on the drug for 18 months, so both the research and development technology and the production process are very new. I can't overstate the human decision which is going into working on this drug. Yesterday we committed £15-£20 million to capital expenditure in order to enhance production."

In clinical trials AZT has proved effective in the treatment of Aids sufferers and patients with related diseases. However, it is not a cure and at present has been given under strict supervision only to patients fulfilling stringent criteria.

Given the toxicity of the drug, it is unclear at this stage as to whether it will be suitable for wider applications.

'Condoms should be free' call

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

The Government is being asked to provide free condoms to help to control the spread of Aids.

The Cabinet committee set up to lead the education campaign on the disease will discuss the possibility at its next meeting.

Medical specialists at Aids units who advocate the move received support yesterday from representatives of 10,000 community pharmacists in England and Wales, and in a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* today.

Miss Kaye Wellings, research officer of the Family Planning Information Service, says in the journal: "The time is now ripe for a major public information campaign on evidence for the protective effects of condoms and spermicides."

"People should be encouraged to use them and provided with clear instructions for their use."

Advertising the products should be allowed on television. "There is a case for setting aside the sensitivities of a minority when lives are at stake," she said.

"The Department of Health and Social Security must decide whether condoms should be provided free of charge for prophylaxis as they are in family planning clinics for contraceptive use."

Some drug clinics and centres for sexually transmitted diseases are already distributing free condoms.

Mr David Sharpe, chairman of the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee, representing the pharmacists, said: "I do not believe that the free issue of condoms will promote promiscuity, but will prevent the spread of a plague of biblical proportions."

A DHSS spokesman said: "Both the free issue of condoms and making the lendites available through pharmacists as well will be considered by the Cabinet committee at its next meeting."

The General Synod

Anglicans in split on papal authority

By Angela Johnson

Anglicans took a big step towards embracing Rome when the Church of England's General Synod voted yesterday, with some reservations, to accept a doctrinal report on the nature of authority in the church.

The Houses of Bishops and Clergy voted overwhelmingly in favour of this section of the Church of England's Response to the Final Report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC). But the laity, which remains critical in the event of any unity, voted 124 to 89 against.

This was not enough to stop the synod accepting that the report included "sufficient convergence on the nature of authority in the church for our communions together to explore further the structures of authority and collegiality and primacy in the church."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, attempted to allay the fears of many synod members saying he believed it was possible for a new style of papal leadership to emerge.

Dr Philip Giddings, of Oxford, voiced the opposition of his fellow members in the laity when he said further talks should be held before the

report was passed by the synod.

Prebendary John Pearce, of London, said it would be misleading to say to Roman Catholics that there was the slightest likelihood the Church of England would accept the kind of papacy that has existed in Rome for a thousand years.

He could not conceive it possible that anyone would want the kind of primacy which claimed to decide whether a husband or wife could or could not use contraception.

Dr Runcie about Mrs Irina Ratschinskaya, the Russian Christian poet, who was released last month from Kiev prison. She wants to take up an offer of medical treatment in Britain. So far she has been unable to obtain an exit visa.

Three American hostages who have just been released will be in Lambeth Palace on Sunday and Monday at the invitation of Dr Runcie. The Rev Ben Weir, the Rev Martin Jenco and Dr David Jacobson, will join American representatives of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic churches to discuss further moves to seek the release of hostages.

The party's over

growing danger - students and West Indians. What will be the political consequences?

Aids should bring about the revolution in sexual habits which no amount of preaching has managed.

In this week's Spectator, Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains exactly how the disease can reach any non-monomogamous heterosexual.

He sets out the great scale of the problem and laments attempts to downplay its seriousness.

We are confronted with a plague to which millions are vulnerable and for which there is no cure. We are entering an age in which no one should go further than a kiss on the cheek.

And Dr Stuttaford identifies two groups now in

What power has the Government to stop the disease?

Also in this week's Spectator, Ferdinand Mount and Jock Bruce-Gardyne ask whether Mr Lawson's election boom will do the trick, while our wine and food special issue tells you how to enjoy the good times while they last.

Colin Welch finds shafts of perception in the eccentric world of Prince Charles's guru, Laurens van der Post; Sally Vincent reveals all about her times with Jeffrey Bernard; and Frank Johnson of *The Times* contributes his first Diary.

THE SPECTATOR

Baker hopes for big change in English teaching

Fundamental changes in the way the English language was taught in schools were needed, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the resumed Commons debate on the Queen's Speech. He would shortly be appointing a committee to consider the issue.

Mr Baker welcomed the opportunity to report to the House about progress of the Government's education policies. Much had happened since he last reviewed in June last year. He said that the education system was a large investment in the nation's future. It was an expensive investment, met by national and local taxpayers.

Most of the argument in the House was about the size of that investment. Much less was heard from the Opposition about getting good value for all those billions and about the benefits to children, students and the nation. Even less was heard about quality, achievement and standards.

The purpose of investment must be to promote higher standards of achievement. Resources were of course important, whether they were material or human. But education could not be seen just in money terms; it was not cash but quality that was important and by standards he meant what children and students were learning.

In recent weeks there had been tremendous media interest in the teachers' pay talks. He wished there could be as much public interest, not just in the crisis of the talks, but in what was happening in the schools.

He had been enormously encouraged by some of the things he had seen during his visits to schools across the country. Many exciting changes were taking place in primary schools. The minds of the five, six and seven-year-olds were more open than at any time in their life and a child's desire to learn was intense.

He hoped that her application would not fail the "primary purpose test" and that her documents would be considered entirely genuine by the entry-clearance officer. If that were to happen, it would be contrary to the experience of many black and Asian men and women of modest means who found themselves in that situation when they married British people.

EDUCATION

tion that was creating interest and enthusiasm in the 13 to 15-year-olds, reflected in lower truancy and absentee figures. There should be a national school curriculum setting out the objectives about what should be learnt and standards achieved. A good starting point was mathematics, science and foreign languages.

Next on the list was English. There was confusion at present about one essential element, the question of teaching how the English language worked. Our language was our greatest national asset and there was widespread discussion about teaching English in schools, not just about how well children could express themselves in writing and reading books, but how they expressed themselves by speaking out with confidence.

Fundamental changes were needed. He would shortly be appointing a committee to consider what children should be taught about the English language and how that should be tackled in the classroom. The GCSE examination was important because it would raise standards of achievement. One thing that worried him about the curriculum, and which was the cause of British education, was early specialization. No one at 14 years should be able to drop science or the humanities.

"I am working to make that impossible." Sixth formers followed a narrow curriculum and the Government was pressing ahead with the introduction of the new Advanced Supplementary (AS) levels in the autumn. That would enable those specializing in science to do AS levels in history, and those studying humanities to do AS level in mathematics or chemistry.

Changes in the organization of the education system were being made, particularly with the Education Act that had gone on the statute book last week. For too long they had left too much to the professional educators and providers and the customers had too little to say and too little opportunity to make a contribution.

The British system was often said to be decentralized, but enormous powers were entrusted to education authorities, not always with the happiest results. The Education Act changed that. It was a radical Act.

No longer would it be possible for a local education authority to foist a head teacher on a governing body when that body did not want that head teacher.

From September, the governing bodies would become responsible for spending a sum of money allocated by the local authority for books, material and stationery, but some local authorities already gave much greater delegation to governing bodies.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C): Will he consider giving governing bodies a right to their own budgets? Mr Baker: I believe that is the way forward. It will lead to keener management of resources and encourage people of

higher quality to join governing bodies.

The local education authority would still be left with responsibility for teacher-training and management of the teacher force. "Parents deserve a choice between what the maintained sector offers and what could be provided by others who have an interest in raising standards and giving wider opportunities."

The Government was showing its concern for the quality of education by the sums it made available for it.

The House would need no reminding of the long-running nature of the problem. Reform of the teaching profession had been mooted at least seven years ago and the present negotiations had been going on for more than two years. There had been widespread disruption in the schools, harming children's education. It was time to bring that saga to an end.

That was why he had made a statement to the House a fortnight ago setting out the Government's position. He had made clear that the Government would make additional resources available if two important conditions were delivered. First, a pay structure with differentials and, second, teachers' professional duties must be clarified and carried through into enforceable contracts of employment.

He had already said the Government was willing to make large additional resources available. It had offered a fair and generous settlement to the teachers, recognizing their status in the community and in national life.

"There can be no question of finding more resources, adding still further to the cost of settling the present dispute and to the £16.5 billion for the education services next year."

The present negotiations, which were still continuing, were taking place under the Burnham arrangements, set in place by the 1965 Act. It was clear that it had now come to the end of its useful life and the negotiations in Coventry, Nottingham and London showed how ineffective and cumbersome the arrangements were.

It was recognized on all sides that Burnham had failed. For the past two weeks it had mumbled, fumbled and stumbled.

The Government proposed to bring forward a Bill to repeal the Remuneration of Teachers Act and establish an interim advisory committee to advise him on the pay and conditions of teachers. It would be introduced shortly. The children of this country deserved something better than the fiasco of Nottingham and London.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said that it was not Burnham but the minister and his policies that were discredited. How could the Government impose contracts on people it did not employ? Was a Bill in draft or was Mr Baker simply using that as a gambit to try to influence matters which should be the subject of proper negotiation?

Mr Baker said that there was certainly a Bill in draft. The role and duties of a teacher should be established and laid down.



Mr Kenneth Baker: The smack of firm government.

School cash condemned as too little too late

Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, replying to Mr Baker in the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech, said that he welcomed the fact that the Government had at last understood that education should be a priority.

Also welcome was the fact that after saying for seven years that the nation could not afford extra money for education the money had been found, although Mr Baker characteristically multiplied by three the actual increase in spending on education for 1987-88.

In this coming year education would account for a lower proportion of public spending than in the previous year. Parents and teachers could be forgiven for concluding that the Government's last-minute change of direction was influenced far more by political calculation, both electoral and personal, than by genuine conviction.

What was more, the increase announced in the autumn statement was clearly far too little and too late to put right the many glaring problems in the schools, including shortages of books and equipment.

"We have heard a lot in the last few days about the Secretary of State losing his po-

science. All of us who have been working in the last 18 months for a long-term settlement much resent both his attitude and his clumsy interference in negotiations earlier this week."

If the Government and the Secretary of State had come up with the kind of money they were now offering the teachers, there would never have been a dispute at all.

Was the Government prepared to accept the long-term and comprehensive deal which had been so agonizingly worked out over the past few days between the employers and the teachers?

The Secretary of State, his civil servants and his press department had consistently "fobbed" the negotiations. The package offered a big increase in pay which was broadly within the Government's price tag. It provided a structure on pay which would help to recruit the best graduates while providing a career structure. It linked together pay and conditions and provided a clear definition on what teachers' duties should be.

"It is a voluntary agreement, freely agreed between the local authorities and the teachers. As such, it is far more likely to stick than any settlement which is imposed from above."

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Environment, is expected to make a series of small concessions to Conservative rebels to stave off a serious backbench revolt on next year's rate support grant settlement.

This is likely to mean a slight shift in the amount of government money to go to certain Conservative-controlled shire councils in the south of England.

The rebels include several parliamentary private secretaries, who are only one step

Risking relations with US 'would be complete folly'

It would be folly needlessly to put at risk the economic, political and security relationship between the United States and Europe, Lady Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Lords when the debate on the Queen's Speech resumed.

Opening a debate on foreign affairs and defence, she said that that relationship had brought 40 years of peace and prosperity, and it was folly enough to denigrate it as some had done, let alone put it at risk.

"Just when the economic and political success of the Western world is getting results, just when the Soviet Union is at long last ready to talk seriously, why now throw in our cards in a grand unilateral gesture?"

"What a mistake that would be. It would dismay our friends and delight our adversaries."

"This Government will not make that mistake. We will ensure that our nation is properly defended against the

HOUSE OF LORDS

continuing military and ideological challenge from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union had not changed its long-term objective of achieving superiority over the West.

The Government did not doubt, however, the Soviet leader's interest in arms reductions. But the deeper the reductions in the numbers of nuclear weapons the more serious it became to address the imbalance in conventional and chemical weapons.

It would be wrong to interpret as anti-Arab the decision by members of the EEC to send Syria a clear message that its official involvement in terrorist activity was unacceptable. Britain and her partners in Europe attached great importance to their links with Arab states.

Iran arms statement demanded

The Prime Minister should make a statement soon on reports that the United States Government had sold arms to Iran, Mr Michael Foot (Barnes, Labour) urged during business questions in the Commons.

It was not clear that she was going to make a statement when she returned from her visit to Washington at the weekend, should she not say a statement on those matters before she went, he asked.

There had been a most remarkable change of policy by the US Government in its decision to go as far as selling arms to states engaged in acts of terrorism over long periods.

"Can we be told whether the British Prime Minister was informed of these matters and what she is going to say when she goes to Washington?"

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that he was sure that this was the kind of question Mr Foot would like to put to the Prime Minister when she was available next week on Tuesday and Thursday.

Earlier, he told Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, who had asked if the Prime Minister could make a statement on her return, that there was no fixed rule on an oral statement being made after a bilateral meeting.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, C) said that now it had been decided that Ealing, Camden and Fulham councils had been acting illegally in financing *The Times* and other national newspapers from public libraries, could suitable ministers come before the House to answer questions about the great costs of the case and how these were to be met by the councils?

Election in his constituency were not prepared to pay the costs of Ealing Council's political action, believing that the money should come out of Labour Party funds.

Mr Biffen said that it was not clear where ministerial responsibility lay in the tangled affair, but he promised to look at it.

Discounts for tenants announced

Tenants who want to buy their flats will be entitled to a maximum discount of 70 per cent from January 7, Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, announced in a Commons written reply.

He also announced that the reduction of the period of re-sale to repay discount on lease will come into effect for houses and flats on the same day.

That provision will apply to owners who have already bought at a discount, so long as they do not sell before then.

The changes are being made under a commencement order bringing sections one to four of the Housing and Planning Act into effect.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday (2.30): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (local government and Scotland).

Tuesday (2.30): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (industry and employment). Wednesday (2.30): Conclusion of debate on the Queen's Speech (the economy).

Thursday (2.30): Debate on the report of the Peacock committee on financing the BBC. Friday (9.30): Debate on Aids.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be: Tuesday (2.30): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (home affairs and the environment).

Wednesday (2.30): Conclusion of debate on the Queen's Speech (economic affairs and employment). Thursday (3): Debate on nuclear power in Europe.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Continuation of debate on Queen's Speech (subject for debate: foreign affairs).

Labour hopes for Thatchers

Offering congratulations to Mr Mark Thatcher and Miss Diane Bergdorf on their engagement, Mr Max Madden (Bradford West, Lab) said during business questions in the Commons that he hoped, if they married and wished to live in this country, that Miss Bergdorf would not have to wait too long for entry clearance.

He hoped that her application would not fail the "primary purpose test" and that her documents would be considered entirely genuine by the entry-clearance officer. If that were to happen, it would be contrary to the experience of many black and Asian men and women of modest means who found themselves in that situation when they married British people.

EEC bureaucrats attacked over Europe TV plan

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, yesterday attacked "the European bureaucrats" who wanted to control the content of radio and television programmes throughout the Common Market.

The EEC directive, due to become law next year, is unnecessary and would restrict the freedom of broadcasters, he said.

It could lead to a channel being entirely devoted to American game shows, for instance, because game shows, news and sport are exempt from the directive.

Lord Thomson argued that the plan will lead to an objectionable situation with programme schedules being held up by bureaucrats in Brussels. Broadcasting did not lend itself to the same processes as, for instance, the textile industry.

"There are diverse national cultures. To suggest that there is some kind of ethereal European culture is bogus", he said.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is against the proposals. But, with more decisions taken with majority voting, Britain could be forced to accept them.

The Home Office has questioned the legality of the EEC to impose such laws under the Treaty of Rome.

An important and unprecedented meeting of the Council of Ministers in Vienna in December will discuss ways of guaranteeing the quality of programmes on European television screens. Lord Thomson indicated that the IBA preferred that approach, rather than forcing a certain quota figure and sticking to it.

programmes from within the EEC, rising to 60 per cent in three years.

The plan is to regulate standards of television programmes and advertising to meet the challenge of satellite and cable television.

Opponents of the system argue that this will mean that American soap operas, such as *Dallas* and *Dynasty*, would be replaced by Italian "soft porn" on British screens.

It could lead to a channel being entirely devoted to American game shows, for instance, because game shows, news and sport are exempt from the directive.

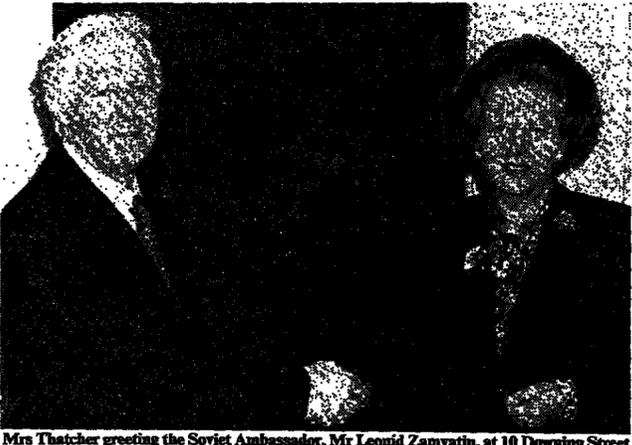
Lord Thomson argued that the plan will lead to an objectionable situation with programme schedules being held up by bureaucrats in Brussels. Broadcasting did not lend itself to the same processes as, for instance, the textile industry.

"There are diverse national cultures. To suggest that there is some kind of ethereal European culture is bogus", he said.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is against the proposals. But, with more decisions taken with majority voting, Britain could be forced to accept them.

The Home Office has questioned the legality of the EEC to impose such laws under the Treaty of Rome.

An important and unprecedented meeting of the Council of Ministers in Vienna in December will discuss ways of guaranteeing the quality of programmes on European television screens. Lord Thomson indicated that the IBA preferred that approach, rather than forcing a certain quota figure and sticking to it.



Mrs Thatcher greeting the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, at 10 Downing Street yesterday. They discussed the Russian Government's views on arms control.

Voluntary schools praised

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

An expansion of the existing network of voluntary schools offers the best prospect of raising educational standards and bringing greater diversity to the state system, Dr David Owen said last night.

In an important and radical speech on education policy, the SDP leader acknowledged the force of some of the free-market criticisms now being directed at the maintained sector.

Further, by calling for more alternatives to the present order, he indicated a willingness to risk offending the strongly pro-comprehensive lobby in his own party.

However, he was careful to temper his remarks with an insistence that the new schools must operate within the orbit of local education authorities.

It was on that point that Dr Owen took strongest issue with Mr Kenneth Baker's plan to set up a network of 20 city technology colleges in the

inner cities funded from Whitehall and run by independent trusts.

"There is no easy short-cut or quick fix in CTCs that are imposed, rather than grafted on to the system."

"I suspect five CTCs, introduced by agreement and in partnership with the local authorities, would be worth far more than twenty CTCs forced on unwilling local education authorities."

The SDP leader said that the dirigiste approach adopted by the Secretary of State for Education and Science would reduce teacher supply by creaming off those with a technical background, increase the dangers of too early specialization by pupils and disrupt the work of inner city secondary schools.

He also accused Mr Baker of confusing two separate problems: the shortage of people with mathematical, scientific and technological

skills, and the poor quality of education in some inner city schools, seen in undisciplined children with low levels of literacy and numeracy.

The solution to both lay with building on the existing system and the powers within the Education Act, 1944.

Under the Act, voluntary schools of a non-denominational character could be set up with the approval of the local education authority and the Secretary of State. As with existing church schools, all this money, except 15 per cent to cover the cost of maintenance and external repair of buildings, would come from the State.

"It is wrong to assume that all education wisdom lies either with the education authorities or with the churches."

"Other bodies with ideas and commitment should be able to establish and run voluntary schools."

Tin crisis MPs concede defeat

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

A Commons select committee conceded defeat yesterday in its attempt to prise information from the Bank of England, but believes it already has sufficient evidence to write a damning report about the Bank's role in last autumn's tin crisis.

The trade and industry committee had twice formally asked the Bank for descriptions of confidential documents relating to the impending crisis which the Government has admitted it showed to the Bank.

On the first occasion the Bank simply sent a list containing such information as "one working document" and the date. On the second occasion last week Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Bank's governor, told Mr Ken Warren, the committee chairman, that he could provide nothing further.

The Bank is understood to have taken the view that were it reported by the committee to the full House of Commons

for contempt it could have persuaded MPs that its silence was vital to protect its sensitive relationship with the Government.

At a private meeting yesterday the committee took no further steps to pursue the matter but members believe they have already established that the Bank knew what was going on.

The committee has also established that the Bank, despite the fact that it was advising the tin dealers as well as the Government, made just one conspicuously unsuccessful attempt in the three years leading up to the crisis to warn the brokers, and none to warn their creditor banks.

The tin dealers, who estimate their initial losses at £165 million, are now taking legal action against the Government, while the banks are owed £340 million. One of the four Cornish mines believed to have been already established that the Bank knew what was going on.

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Labour's team is named

By Our Political Staff

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Labour peers, announced yesterday his list of frontbench spokesmen for the new session.

Lord Bruce of Donington will become chief Treasury spokesman in place of Lord Barnett, Labour's former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who is now deputy chairman of the BBC.

Chief spokesman on trade and industry will be Lord Williams of Elvel, who was praised for his work on the Financial Services Bill.

The main Labour spokesmen are:

Leader: Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos. Deputy Leader: Lord Underhill.

Chief Whip: Lord Ponsbury. Peers' representative on Parliamentary Committee: Lord Owen.

Deputy Chief Whip: Lady David. Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Fisheries: Lord John Macleod.

Arts, Libraries, Heritage, Broadcasting: Lady Bird. Civil Service, Foreign affairs and Welsh affairs: Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos.

Defence: Lord Irving of Darlington. Education and Science: Lord Macintosh of Haringey.

Electoral affairs and transport: Lord Underhill. Employment: Lord McCarthy.

Energy: Lord Stoddart of Swindon. Environment: Lady David. Home Affairs: Lord Evers of Liverpool. House Office: Lord Mishcon. Legal affairs: Lord Elywn-Jones.

Northern Ireland: Lord Prys-Davies. Scottish Office: Lord Ross of Marnock. Social Security: Lady Jeger. Trade and Industry: Lord Williams of Elvel. Treasury: Lord Bruce of Donington.

Extremists warned not to attend Belfast rally

By Richard Ford

The RUC yesterday warned "loyalists" planning protests to mark the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish agreement of the dangers of demonstrations being exploited by criminal and subversive elements.

There are fears that loyalist paramilitaries and extremists intend organizing their own activities, but the two Unionist leaders want to ensure that tomorrow's rally in Belfast is peaceful.

Tens of thousands of loyalists are expected outside the city hall to "show that Ulster still says no" to the agreement, but the Unionist party leaders warned paramilitaries and hoodlums to stay away.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, pleaded there would be no cuts in electricity services tomorrow, and said the purpose of the rally was a "head count" to demonstrate to the world the loyalist opposition to the deal.

Mr Paisley said that people could carry Unionist and Ulster flags but added: "People will not be there to have a paramilitary demonstration. We have made it clear we don't want anyone in hoods or covering their faces."

The 14 Unionist MPs, who have boycotted normal parliamentary business for the past 12 months, have with 22 Conservative backbenchers put down an amendment to the Queen's Speech and will vote against the government motion in the House of Commons next week.

Mr Paisley and Mr Molyneux are to meet Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader,

on Wednesday to discuss the security situation, which has worsened since the signing of the agreement a year ago.

A comparison of the years before and after the signing shows that loyalist paramilitaries have increased their activities. They claim to have killed nine people in the period November 15, 1985, to November 6, 1986, compared with two the year before. RUC officer injuries rose from 113 to 348 and civilian injuries increased from 42 to 186.

Although loyalist terrorism has increased, it has not been on the scale frequently proclaimed by extremists.

The grand aims of the agreement of ushering in "peace stability and reconciliation" have so far proved elusive, with sectarian divisions deeper, increased violence, intimidation and little hope of the British and Irish governments' aim of a devolved government in the province likely in the foreseeable future.

Both governments privately admit they underestimated the stubbornness of loyalist opposition to the accord and are now preparing to "batten down the hatches" and continue governing through direct rule while implementing the deal with Dublin.

While failing to bring down the agreement, loyalist opposition has slowed down its implementation and there has been little visible change on the ground in the North.

Nine full meetings of the ministerial conference have produced little, although the Government is to give voting rights to 8,000 Irish citizens in election to the Northern Ireland Assembly and there will be reforms to the Emergency Provisions Act although Britain has rejected Dublin's demand for an increase from one to three judges sitting in the Diplock courts.

In the republic legislation has yet to be introduced in the Dail ratifying Dublin's signing of the European Convention on Terrorism.

The agreement's first year of operation has probably been of more importance for its psychological effect on both Unionist and nationalist communities, as well as testing the resolve of the mainly Protestant RUC, which has not cracked under assault from both sections of the community.



Dreaming of the moon: Jonathon Richards, of Towyn, Abergele, Clwyd, winner of the under-eight category in the annual Post Office letter-writing competition. His entry was a letter to the American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, in which he asked whether he and Edwin Aldrin had argued about who was to step on the moon first and he also asked if he could join the next mission to the moon.

The other winners were Christopher Wallard, aged nine, of Woking, Surrey, who wrote to Merlin seeking the truth about his role in Avalon, and Eleanor Margolis, aged 15, of New Cross, south-east London, who wrote to the musician, Barry Tuckwell, on the difficulties of being a girl horn player. The competition attracted 152,000 entries from children who had to write to somebody famous (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Travel agents' conference

Short-stay Australia package breaks up by a fifth

From Derek Harris, Brisbane

Short holiday breaks in British hotels, typically taken over a long weekend, have increased by a fifth this year. There has also been a big growth in other sectors of short-stay domestic tourism.

These are the initial findings of a study being made by Mr Victor Middleton, a consultant to the Wales Tourist Board, who is also a senior lecturer at Surrey University.

The study is the first reliable breakdown of the short-stay market in Britain and was disclosed to the Association of British Travel Agents conference yesterday.

Visits of one to three nights exceeded 30 million in 1985, with spending topping £800 million, Mr Middleton said.

Spending on short breaks in hotels and similar commercial accommodation probably amounts to as much as £9 million a year, he said.

This sector has at least tripled in size since 1980 and Mr Middleton expects substantial growth to continue, fuelled by the high level of promotional spending by hotel groups and holiday companies.

So far the growth of this part of the short-break market has paralleled that of foreign package holidays, which has also grown by about a fifth this year.

Visits to Australia by Britons are up 20 per cent this autumn and two leading British air carriers are exploring the possibility of launching charter flights as a basis for new package tours.

The Association of British Travel Agents was told on the last day of its conference that both the International Leisure Group (ILG), which includes Intasun, and Cairn, the charter subsidiary of British Caledonian, are considering the idea.

Charter flights would be breaking new ground in Australia. Three airports - Cairns, Townsville and Darwin - are technically available for such flights, but no carrier has yet used them.

Mr Sidney Perez, deputy chairman of ILG, believes an Australian package holiday could be offered for less than £1,000. He thought the flight would be about £500.

Mr Perez said: "We are looking at the possibilities. First it means finding an airline equipped for long-haul work."

But scheduled airlines such as Qantas argue that charters are inappropriate to the Australian market, because most travellers visit the country as part of a Far East tour taking in destinations such as

Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong.

They also point out that with 17 airlines competing on the UK-Australia route there is already ample capacity. Moreover, discount fares can be had for as little as £600 which would leave charter companies with little or no margin to make the route pay.

Britain could soon join the United States and Japan as one of Australia's biggest tourism growth markets, according to Mr John Haddad, chairman of the Australian Tourist Commission.

Visa applications for the third quarter indicate an increased British visitor flow of 20 per cent and Mr Haddad is confident that 1988 - Australia's bicentennial year - would see 225,000 British visitors.

The longer-term aim is to boost the British and Irish visitor totals to 600,000 by the turn of the century.

Four-day holidays in California for £299 are to be offered by Kuoni, Britain's biggest long-haul specialist.

It is one of a number of bargain packages for those prepared to travel at comparatively short notice, because brochures will not be on travel agents' shelves until six weeks before the first departure date.

SECURITY STATISTICS

	1985	1986*
Deaths	46	59
Injuries RUC	285	458
Injuries RUC Reserve	70	66
Army	17	38
UDF	13	7
Civilians	429	649
TOTAL	614	1243
Shootings	200	310
Punishment attacks	25	29
Attacks on RUC	570	1306
Bombs		
Explosions	125	124
Defused	60	62
Charges		
Murder	23	9
Attempted murder	45	24
Firearms	95	113
Explosives	34	20
Armed robbery	50	50
Other offences	189	360
TOTAL	435	576

* January 1 to October 31

Obituary hoax hits at Shorts plant manager

Detectives have been called into the Short Brothers aircraft plant in east Belfast to investigate the placing of a hoax death notice in a newspaper naming one of the company's managers.

The death notice appeared after "loyalist" posters urging support for tomorrow's Anglo-Irish protest rally, to be led by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, were removed from walls in the factory.

The Shorts management ordered the removal of the posters on Monday, in line with its recent crackdown on sectarianism on the shop floor. Shorts is Ulster's biggest employer, with 7,000 workers, mostly Protestants.

On Wednesday night, a

single death notice naming a production line manager in the plant appeared in the *Belfast Telegraph*.

It was purportedly placed on behalf of "The management and fellow workers of the aircraft division Short Brothers," who "regretted" the death of the manager and "tendered their deepest sympathy to the family circle."

Detectives were first called into Shorts in August, when loyalist extremists operating under the label of the Protestant Loyalist Council were involved in a campaign of hate against Roman Catholics working in the plant.

A report on that investigation is believed to be with the Director of Public Prosecutions in Belfast.

Sale room

Bacon painting in auction record

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Francis Bacon has taken over from the late Henry Moore as Britain's most expensive living artist with the new auction price record of £644,827 set at Christie's in New York on Wednesday night.

The painting is titled "Seated Figure", dates from 1978 and is more than 6ft high. It is a memorial to Bacon's long-term companion George Dyer, who died in 1971. Dyer's head and shoulders are painted in the foreground; behind him a crouching figure with an umbrella claps a lavatory pedestal. Dyer died on the lavatory of a Paris hotel room on the day that Bacon's 1971 retrospective was opened at the Grand Palais.

The Bacon was one of a group of 10 important contemporary works sent for sale by Ted Ashley, an American film producer. Christie's had been suggesting a price had been \$650,000 to \$850,000 before the sale. The price in dollars was \$935,000. The buyer chose to remain anonymous.

Other notable Ashley works included Roy Lichtenstein's blown-up cartoon image of a green tank being blown up, entitled "Blang" which sold for \$792,000 (estimate \$600,000-\$800,000) or £546,206 to a Swiss dealer, and a small chalk drawing by Willem de Kooning, "Woman" of 1951-52, which made \$638,000 (estimate \$200,000-\$300,000) or £440,000. The sheet of paper measures 13in by 10in.

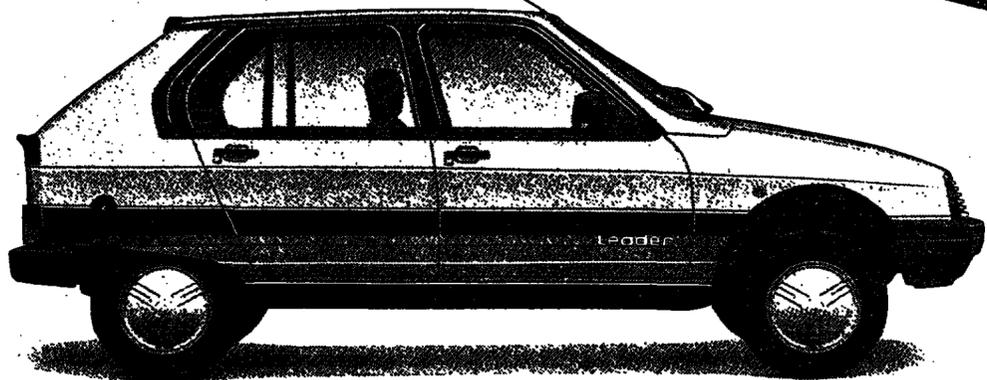
All 10 Ashley pictures sold, totalling £3,038,275. Christie's mixed-property sale of contemporary art made another £2,891,862, with 26 per cent unsold and a new auction price record for San Francisco at \$825,000 (estimate \$650,000-\$850,000) or £568,965. Another seven records were set for lesser artists.

In London yesterday a sale of Japanese art attracted a crowded room and high prices at Sotheby's. There were three fine pieces by Zeshin, the greatest lacquer artist of the nineteenth century.

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Army and RAF to get £1bn updated air defence system

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

The Government yesterday announced an order worth £1 billion to equip the Army and the RAF with the next generation of the highly successful Rapier air defence system. It has been placed with the Army Weapons Division of British Aerospace at Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The first systems, to equip two Army batteries and three RAF squadrons in West Germany, will be delivered in the early 1990s. The order will secure employment for 10,000 workers and Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, managing director of BAE, said that the system will generate substantial export sales. Twelve countries have already bought the existing Rapier. It is expected that future export sales will account for at least half of the projected £3 billion production cycle. Announcing the order Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said that the original Rapier system, which entered service in 1974, could not be "stretched" any further. A new generation was required to meet the developing threat posed by high perfor-

mance, all-weather aircraft equipped with radically improved counter measures. The new Rapier 2000 is a mobile, three-part system consisting of tracker and surveillance radars and a launch missile equipped with eight instead of the current six missiles. It will be the principal low-level area air defence for the British forces well into the twenty-first century. Its role will be with forward troops on the battlefield as well as the defence of strategic targets such as airfields, radars and supply dumps. Development of the new system began three years ago at the BAE Army Weapons Division and is one third through the programme. It will be armed with two new missiles, one version carrying an armour-piercing warhead, the other a fragmentation warhead useful against likely future targets such as cruise missiles and low flying, remotely piloted vehicles. It will also have the capacity to fire and guide simultaneously two missiles against different targets. BAE will be the prime contractor for the system and the first delivery consignment of the new missiles, but the contract for later batches will go to competition. The existing range of Rapier has already attracted £1.5 billion of sales around the world. The United States is viewed as potentially an important customer for the new system which incorporates lessons learnt from its deployment during the Falklands campaign. Iran was one country which bought, but Lord Trefgarne said that any request from Tehran for the new system would be judged under the Government's guidelines to supply no equipment either to Iran or Iraq which would enhance the capability of their forces or extend the Gulf war. The contract has been placed on an incentive pricing arrangement covered by a maximum price for the complete package which means that BAE makes increased profits if it comes in below the figure but will lose financially if it exceeds it. Delivery of the Rapier 2000 to British forces is expected to be completed by the mid-90s.

Tax fraud charities face new legal curbs

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government will take further action if necessary to curb charity tax frauds, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday. He told a Charities Aid Foundation conference: "Some less scrupulous people have begun to look towards using charitable status simply as a method of avoiding tax and lining their own pockets. This I regard as a particularly despicable form of white collar crime, not only because it is wrong *per se* but because of the destructive effect it has upon people's attitude towards charitable giving." That was why the Government had introduced measures in this year's Finance Act to try to curb the abuses and would take more action if necessary. Meanwhile, he said, there was room for more self-regulation and voluntary action. His own preference was for letting the charity and voluntary sector safeguard its independence by developing its own methods and conventions of self-regulation. Exploitation of legal or administrative loopholes for short-term gains could seriously harm the reputation of the charitable world in the longer term, Mr Hurd said.



A shopper passing yesterday to admire Bradford's Bouncing Back bear, which went on display in Darley Street at the launching of a drive to improve the image of the West Yorkshire city. The campaign, with the "warm and friendly" bear symbol, was inspired by the £1 million Glasgow's Miles Better crusade.

Plea to bring the jobless into union pay bargaining

By Ian Smith

Fearful consequences were predicted by the director of the Industrial Society yesterday unless representatives of Britain's disaffected army of unemployed were allowed to join managements and trade union leaders at the bargaining table. Mr Alistair Graham said the unemployed should be given the opportunity to try to channel company profits into job creation instead of workers' pay outs. The divide between the long-term unemployed and those secure in jobs was growing wider every day and unless some hope of work was held out, decay and desperation would loom ever larger. Addressing a meeting of industrialists and union leaders in York, Mr Graham said he had turned his back on being general secretary of the Civil and Public Servants Association to play his part in reducing some of the gaping divisions within British society. His message was bleak unless employers, city investors, trade unions and workers unite to close the widening gap in society Britain would never again rise as a successful and prosperous society. A recently completed survey by the Institute of Man-

Demand for MoD ethnic figures

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence is to be sent a second and final demand by a Commons select committee for details of how many blacks and Asians there are in certain units of the Armed Forces. This comes after the ministry's refusal last week to supply the information. A further refusal will lead to ministers being "invited" to appear before the defence committee for an embarrassing and hostile public grilling. The committee, chaired by Sir Humphrey Atkins, the former Cabinet minister, first asked for the information covering no more than 10 units last July. At a private meeting on Wednesday night it rejected the ministry's excuse that the figures were not available, and decided to press the issue. The committee began its inquiry into ethnic minority recruitment and promotion prospects earlier this year after considerable media interest in the apparent absence of blacks and Asians from the better regiments, and the reported observation of the Prince of Wales that there were few black faces beneath the bearskins of the Guards' regiments. At the same time as refusing the committee's request last week, the ministry announced that it will introduce ethnic monitoring of recruits to the Armed Forces next year.

Support for family court plan

A unified family court involving both judges and lay members won further backing yesterday with a report from the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes). The report, produced by a working party set up jointly with the Association of Directors of Social Services, is the latest expression of support for a unified family court system which will involve lay members such as magistrates. The Lord Chancellor's Department is analysing responses to its own consultative paper on various models for a family court. But a common feature of proposals from groups such as the Law Society and Family Courts Campaign, as well as a group of judges, magistrates and justices' clerks is for a model involving laymen. There is opposition however from the Bar, where family lawyers say that magistrates are not equipped to deal with the complex issues in family cases. Yesterday's report called for a unified court, combining all the family jurisdiction now split between the High Court, county courts and magistrates' courts. The bench, it says, should consist both of lay members and judges. "We see advantages in the combined wisdom and experience of lay members and judges each making their own contribution to the decision-making process." Training, the report says, is a priority, and a conciliation service and court-based welfare reporting officers are essential. "These services are so important... that they should be provided in a consistent and planned way." Welcoming the report, Mrs Renee Short, chairman of the Commons select committee on social services, said that the committee had been anxious to see progress made on family courts to improve the system for children. "The family court has been hanging fire long enough," she said. "I hope the Government will now take urgent action and will make use of the carefully considered recommendations in this report." Family justice: A Structure for the Family Court (British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, 11 Southwark Street, London SE1 1RQ; £6.95).

Reform of hearings sought

Old-style committal proceedings where witnesses give evidence cause excessive delays, put "extreme and totally unjustifiable" pressure on the prison service and should be abolished, the Justices' Clerks' Society said in a paper yesterday (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes). Most of the public are "totally unaware of, and equally indifferent to," full committal proceedings, and the agitation for retaining them comes from some lawyers "who cannot be regarded as wholly disinterested in the matter", it says. The abolition of full committals would lead to "massive reductions in the delay in bringing cases to trial, in the demands on prison space and prison officers' time, and in public expense, especially to the legal aid fund," the society says. "We consider that no single reform would achieve a greater reduction in the prison population without distorting the sentencing of convicted persons or involving executive intervention in the decisions of the courts." The society's paper represents a complete reversal of its stance on committal proceedings, adopted earlier this year in a joint paper with the Bar. That paper argued that the right to give oral evidence should be retained. The paper now says there should be a right, after committal, to apply for the quashing of the proceedings against the accused if no prima facie case can be shown. After the Criminal Justice Act, 1967, old-style committals were almost entirely replaced by the shorter proceedings where oral evidence is not given. But in recent years the practice of calling witnesses has increased. Home Office figures for October 1985 show in the week under review there were 214 "full" as against 1,480 "paper" committals. That 13 per cent of the total is not spread evenly over the country, some courts, including some of the busiest, find "full" committals account for a much higher percentage. Such proceedings are time-consuming. In October 1985 23 per cent were completed within 56 days of first listing, compared with 57 per cent of "paper" committals; 56 per cent were still not complete after 84 days against 21 per cent of "paper" ones.

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COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

Mrs Thatcher will be talking at Camp David tomorrow to a President who has already been wounded in his conduct of foreign policy and who may have more severe damage to come.

The story of Iran and the hostages has, I have found, upset Americans of every political hue in different parts of the country. It has caused them more embarrassment than any other foreign policy issue since those other hostages were released from Tehran as President Reagan came to power nearly six years ago.

The reaction has been very different from the response to Reykjavik. After the summit the Reagan Administration mounted an extraordinary publicity campaign, which somehow managed to convince the American people that a near-disaster had been a great success and the negotiators were on the threshold of breathtaking achievements.

My impression is that this version of events is now wearing rather thin with American opinion-formers, especially after the failure of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks in Vienna last week. For the moment, however, the American public remains uncritical of the President in his attempt to negotiate with the Soviet Union.

But the reported dealings with Iran cut across so much that the Administration has been saying to allies and to its own countrymen.

Reagan no longer above reproach

I have yet to come across anyone in the United States who is prepared to justify the operation. The best that is said is that with his incredible political skill Mr Reagan may once again be able to justify it to other Americans.

There has been, then, some immediate damage. The President is no longer above popular reproach for his handling of foreign policy. But will this be more than a passing embarrassment?

Everything depends, I suspect, on what the issue finally becomes for public opinion. If it becomes a question of how best to find a way through the labyrinth of Middle Eastern politics the damage should be contained.

It will all become too complex for outrage to be sustained. The Administration will be judged to have messed it up in this instance, but the President will probably be forgiven for trying to safeguard American lives his way.

It will be a different matter, though, if the principal issue becomes the White House's honesty and candour. If the Administration appears to be unreasonably withholding explanations, or offering seriously conflicting explanations, then it could seem to be on the run. That is an impression that could be all the more easily conveyed as this embargo regime follows so soon after the political rebuff of the mid-term elections.

Unless there are further revelations the present furor may well die down for a bit in a few weeks. The attention span of the American public is limited, even in its bouts of indignation, unless there is constant refuelling.

Congress will be critical test

The critical test will come when the new Congress convenes in January. At that stage it will become of great significance that the Democrats will be able to determine the agenda of committees in both houses and therefore what investigations are conducted.

The Democrats will be all the more eager to create difficulties for the Administration because they may find it hard to unite on a positive programme in other areas. Already there is talk of special congressional hearings and already the President's spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, has been mentioning the possibility that the White House might invoke executive privilege to refuse to answer certain questions.

As President Nixon sought refuge in executive privilege during Watergate, to take that course would risk raising suspicion of dark secrets to hide a suspicion that could be more damaging than the reality. At that point the issue would be broadened beyond a single episode to more general dispute over the control of foreign policy.

To prevent this happening, to draw a line under this sorry business, will be one of the most searching tests of his political skill that Mr Reagan has faced.

Gulf war supplies

Union alleges Danish ships taking arms and military parts to Iran

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

The Danish Seamen's Union claims to have firm evidence that vessels registered in Denmark have carried thousands of tons of arms and military spare parts to Iran since the Gulf war with Iraq began in 1980.

According to Mr Henrik Berlau, Secretary of the Danish Seamen's Union, about 30 Danish ships have been involved in transporting weapons to Iran on some 60 voyages during the past six years.

US plane 'took airforce spares to Tehran'

From John England, Bonn

An American cargo plane made a secret flight to Tehran last July with spare parts for the Iranian Air Force listed as hospital equipment and medical supplies, a member of the Anti-Khomeini Mujahedin Resistance Movement said here yesterday.

Mr Alaeddin Touran said the registrations of the TWA Boeing 707 had been N 545 FA, and he gave the name of the American pilot as Richard Allen. There were two British co-pilots. The plane landed at Tehran airport on July 4 amid great secrecy ordered by the Iranian Prime Minister's office.

Mr Touran said it was believed the aircraft's 23-ton cargo included sophisticated electronic equipment for airforce weapons systems.

Mr Mir-Hossein Mousavi, the Iranian Prime Minister, said the US remained the "Great Satan" to Iran, despite reports of a secret hostages-for-weapon deal between Tehran and Washington (Reuter reports from Tehran).

The arms were shipped from Mediterranean ports in countries which include Israel, Italy, Greece, Spain and France.

"Thousands of tons of arms have been freighted by Danish vessels to Iran," Mr Berlau said.

although members of our union claim to have seen American weapons in the shipments, we have no direct evidence of any link between these consignments and a possible US deal for the release of American hostages held in the Lebanon - we are pretty sure though that there is a connection."

Mr Berlau said arms traffic to Iran has intensified during the past eight months. One of the latest known arms voyages by a Danish ship involved the Morsoe, which carried 460 tons of military equipment from the Israeli Red Sea port of Eilat to Bandar Abbas in Iran late in October.

The ship left Eilat on October 22 and docked in Iran on October 30.

The union last week halted a Danish vessel in the Mediterranean because it feared for the lives of Danish seamen. The vessel was bound for Iran with a shipment of arms it took on in Italy, prompting the Italian Government to call for an investigation. The ship was diverted to Piraeus after the union was tipped off that Iraq knew of its cargo, Mr Berlau said.

The union says it has no figures as to the exact number of Danish ships involved in arms shipments to Iran, nor of the types of weapons being freighted, although unofficial sources speculate that many of the consignments include spare parts for American-built fighter aircraft in the Iranian Air Force, as well as arms from other countries.

Defiance of captured Arab sailors



Victory signs from Arab survivors of a suspected Palestinian guerrilla ship sunk last year by Israeli gunboats as they were being taken to a military court in Lod, Israel, yesterday. Four of the eight survivors were charged with attempting to attack the Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv. The others faced lesser charges. Twenty suspected guerrillas died when the ship sank.

Japanese lingerie gets the 'Lady Di' image

From David Watts, Tokyo

Young Japanese ladies will be putting on Lady Di bras, girdles and bodysuits next spring. And the company that plans to market them is blithely ignorant of the offence such exploitation of the name of a future Queen may cause at Buckingham Palace.

"We wanted something practical yet romantic and elegant. They're not lacy," said the young lady responsible for the line at Triumph International. "We're not deliberately using Princess Diana. We're not really pushing her. We were looking for a 'lady' name for our product."

The underwear lines consist of three bras, three girdles and the bodysuit all in "cameo beige", with the bras in "angel blue" or "primrose pink". Triumph, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the German parent, is not unusual among Japan-based firms in imagining that any Western name in the public domain may be used freely without concerns about copyright, double entendre or offence. But were the name of a member of the Japanese royal family to be used in the same way, no doubt they would be horror-struck.

Canada renews cultural links with Russians

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada is renewing a series of scientific and cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union which were suspended after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan seven years ago.

The Minister for External Affairs, Mr Joe Clark, said, in announcing the decision, that the Government believed people-to-people exchanges could promote international understanding and help ease East-West tensions.

He also noted that the measures invoked against Moscow over Afghanistan did not work. "One of the unhappy realities about sanc-

tions is that they do not always have the results that you seek," Mr Clark told reporters. "I think that clearly the cutting off of relations with the Soviet Union did not have the effect that we sought."

"It now makes more sense for us to put ourselves into a position where we might be able to influence their behaviour by our contacts with them."

Limited economic sanctions which Canada also imposed against the Soviet Union, including an embargo on wheat shipments, were lifted several years ago.

OAS told of growing instability

From Martha Honey Guatemala City

Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda Amor, the Mexican Foreign Minister, has warned that Latin America and the Caribbean are facing a grave economic and political crisis.

Señor Sepúlveda, in his speech on Wednesday to the general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), outlined the deteriorating economy of the region and warned that the political crisis in Central America could spill over and destabilize the entire continent.

He also said the dispute between Britain and Argentina over fishing rights around the Falkland Islands had "aggravated tensions in the South Atlantic".

The Mexican minister accused Britain of adopting "unilateral methods that modify the status quo (thereby) making negotiations difficult".

He reiterated his country's support for Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and its surrounding waters.

Señor Sepúlveda began his speech by listing indicators of the economic crisis facing Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that during the 1980s, 130 million people - or 35 per cent of the continent's population - would be living in poverty and would not be able to "satisfy their nutritional needs".

The region's standard of living in 1986, he said, was almost the same as it was in 1973.

Further, he said Latin American exports had declined by 6.5 per cent last year and the price of principal export products for the region

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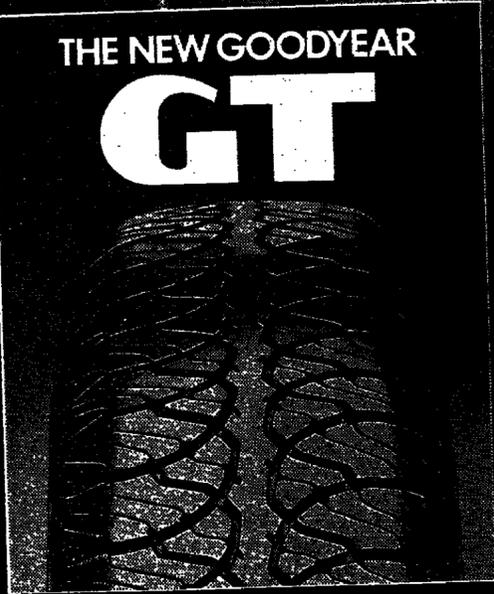
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WORLD SUMMARY

UK presses Israel on nuclear 'spy'

Jerusalem - Britain is increasing diplomatic pressure on Israel to find out exactly how Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the Sunday Times nuclear informant, disappeared from London and ended up in an Israeli jail (Ian Murray writes). Only two days after first seeking clarification on precisely how Mr Vanunu left British soil, Mr William Squire, the ambassador to Israel, has made a second call to that country's Foreign Ministry emphasizing the urgency of a quick and complete answer.

Bishops bow to Pope

Washington - After two days of closed and heated discussion, Roman Catholic bishops have decided not to press the Vatican to reinstate fully the dissident Archbishop of Seattle, who has been stripped of most of his authority. However, they offered him moral support and "embraced him as a brother" (Michael Binyon writes).

Seoul dam Nuclear protest

Seoul (AP) - About 100,000 people attended a rally in Seoul to protest against a hydro-electric dam that North Korea is building on a river that runs through Seoul. South Korea claims vast areas of Seoul could be flooded if large amounts of water were released deliberately or accidentally.

Boat toll put at 130

Port-au-Prince (Reuters) - A Haitian coastal ferry was carrying 150 people when it capsized three days ago but only 21 bodies have so far been found, Haiti's Ministry of Information said in a communique. It said military helicopters were continuing the search for bodies.

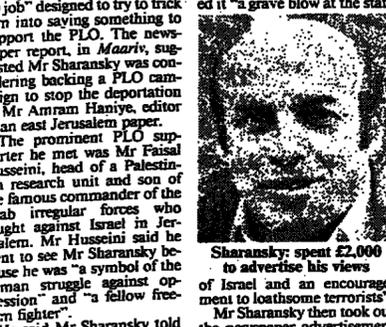
Guerrilla appeals

Mr Son Sann, left, the leader of an anti-Vietnamese guerrilla army in Cambodia, appealed to Western Nations and China yesterday in London to come to his aid before Vietnamese troops launch an offensive on his forces in the coming weeks (Nicholas Beeston writes).



Sharansky attacks PLO for trickery

Mr Natan Sharansky spent more than £2,000 yesterday to place advertisements in the Israeli press vehemently denying a newspaper story that he had a secret meeting with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and offered his support.



Sharansky spent £2,000 to advertise his views of Israel and an encouragement to "loathsome terrorists". Mr Sharansky then took out the newspaper advertisement to clarify his view that the PLO is "a criminal terror organization... both the purpose and the barbarous methods of this organization of outthroats violate every human standard," he said.

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Russians sure they will soon have counter to Star Wars

From Christopher Walker, Moscow Details were published here yesterday of methods being studied by a group of leading Soviet scientists to counter the US Star Wars programme, including the deployment of decoy missiles, space mines, land-based lasers and "space shrapnel".

The official weekly Moscow News said the group of specialists was now convinced that the combination of active and passive counter-measures would "virtually offset the danger of military-strategic parity being upset by the deployment of SDI".

The paper published a list of "active" measures being studied, saying they involved ways of neutralizing and hitting a large anti-ballistic missile system. Two such measures were the deployment of small missiles whose principle target would be space-based anti-missile stations, and the deployment of space mines close to the stations which could then be exploded by remote-control from earth.

The paper also said that the group known as the Committee of Soviet Scientists in Defence of Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat - was studying land-based high-capacity lasers intended to suppress space-based stations and "space shrapnel", a cloud of small objects moving at high speed in the orbit of anti-missile stations.

Moscow News claimed that this tactic would be highly effective because even a 1 oz



Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, his face blackened with coal dust, removing his safety helmet as he emerges into daylight after a visit to a mine at Haltern yesterday.

Kohl accused of lying over gaffe

The Social Democratic (SPD) and Greens opposition parties in Bonn yesterday accused Chancellor Kohl of lying to Parliament over his gaffe in comparing Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, with Dr Josef Goebbels, the Nazi Propaganda Minister, as both being "good PR men".

Quotas, surpluses face twin assault

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

As the European Commission in Brussels yesterday announced proposed cuts in dairy quotas in a bid to put pressure on next week's key meetings of farm and finance ministers, the European Parliament passed its own package of tough farm proposals including dairy quota cuts and a fund for getting rid of surpluses.

Both moves were described by officials as a new and deliberate push to force member states to confront the need for reform of the common agricultural policy. The combined pressure of the Parliament and the Commission is designed to force the Council of Ministers when it meets next week under British chairmanship to face up to the need for what EEC officials call "measures unpalatable to European farmers" to reduce the growing food surpluses.

Yesterday the Parliament voted for a 5 percent cut in dairy quotas by 301 votes to 41, an unusual display of unity and adopted, on a show of hands, a proposal to spend £1.5 billion on disposal of food stocks.

The Parliament also voted funds for the distribution of surplus butter and beef to the needy within the EEC rather than sales to non-EEC states such as Russia.

BRUSSELS: The Commission's radical plans, which could eliminate surplus dairy and beef production, are certain to arouse the fury of 12 million farmers. But they could bring in savings of more than ECU 1.3 billion by 1989, the Agriculture Commissioner, Mr Frans Andriessen said yesterday (Reuters reports).

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Devastating pollution of the Rhine releases wave of recrimination across Western Europe Poison catastrophe has lesson for every nation

EEC to toughen rules on waste

From Richard Owen
Strasbourg

The European Community is to take urgent steps to tighten regulations on toxic chemical discharges after the disaster on the Rhine in Switzerland two weeks ago, Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, the EEC Environment Commissioner, announced yesterday.

Mr Clinton Davis addressed the European Parliament on the disaster, which was caused by a discharge of chemicals from the Sandoz plant near Basle into the Rhine.

He said EEC environment ministers would meet to consider joint action in 10 days time, and this would be followed by a high-level meeting in Rotterdam on December 19, to be attended by ministers from Switzerland — which is not an EEC state — and the EEC states most directly affected by the pollution, including West Germany, France and The Netherlands.

The Swiss Government has agreed to pay compensation for damage caused by the Sandoz chemical plant discharge into the Rhine. Mr Clinton Davis said. Sandoz executives had been "very contrite", but it was not enough to be sorry.

He said the EEC had adopted harmonized legislation on the handling of toxic chemicals after the Seveso disaster in Italy four years ago, but only four member states — Britain, West Germany, Denmark and France — had complied. The Commission would take legal action against the other eight to force them to observe the Seveso directive.

Mr Clinton Davis said.

He also said the Commission would be monitoring the Rhine to ensure that chemical companies did not take advantage of the Swiss incident to discharge toxic materials into the river in the hope that additional pollution would not be noticed.

Mr Clinton Davis called for a new "alarm system" to inform EEC states of environmental hazards, saying the present system had proved "grossly inadequate" in the Basle incident.

The Rhine pollution is regarded by Mr William Waldegrave, the Minister for the Environment, as a European disaster with implications for every country, not just to those through which the river flows.

As the president of the European environment ministers group, Mr Waldegrave has offered his West German counterpart, Herr Walter Wallmann, the opportunity to raise the issues of compensation, pollution, early warning and safeguards arising from the Rhine disaster, when the ministers meet in Brussels on November 23 to plan action over a number of pollution problems.

Swiss authorities criticized over delays in alerting other countries

Herr Wallmann has been the most outspoken critic of the Swiss authorities for delay in alerting the other Rhine countries of the discharges into the river on November 1 and over the general approach of the Swiss to environmental protection and safety standards.

An estimated half a million fish were killed as 30 tons of agricultural chemicals, mainly pesticide compounds and including a mercury-based formulation, swept from Basle, in Switzerland, through Germany and The Netherlands into the North Sea. A second smaller wave of pollution was discharged last Monday, 10 days after the first release.

The dispersal of the waste is being monitored for the British Government by vessels from the Ministry of Agriculture food and fisheries research laboratory at Burnham-on-Crouch.

There is believed to be no threat to British coastal waters or North Sea fisheries, because currents from the estuary of the Rhine at the Hook of Holland sweep northwards to Norway.

Many of the pesticides based on organo-phosphorous compounds will break up very rapidly. The organo-phosphorous compounds became a preferred type for that reason because of long-term destruction to wildlife by earlier organo-chlorine versions, including materials like DDT.

The Dutch, however, are concerned about the indestructible deposits of mercury which are expected to accumulate in silt along the coast. The conditions are reminiscent of the pollution incident which revealed the extremely poisonous quality of mercury contamination 25 years ago.

The source of that mercury poison was in waste effluent discharged from a chemical works into Minamata Bay. The mercury spread from fish to fishermen and their families and scores of people suffered an agonizing and slow death.

The disaster occurred because the mercury was transformed after it was discharged into a form that was viciously toxic to people but not to shellfish and other fish.

The Rhine catastrophe began when firemen flushed the chemicals into the river while fighting a blaze at the Sandoz chemical works. The building, known as 956, was a storehouse for pesticides and other waste materials.

The discharge has undone 10 years of effort to clean up the Rhine. It followed a campaign started by the Dutch. The river had become so grossly polluted by industrial expansion in France, Germany, and Switzerland that by the time the water reached The Netherlands it could not be cleaned satisfactorily by even the most advanced water treatment plant.

An internal report prepared for the West German Chemicals Industry Association shows the building had none of the equipment such as vessels to catch leaking chemicals, automatic sprinklers, automatic smoke and fire



Lockgates on the Rhine (left) have been opened by the Dutch authorities to let polluted water flow into the North Sea to avoid contamination of the country's inland waterway system. In West Germany, tons of dead eels killed by the polluted water are being removed from the river.



necessary for such a building under the European Community protection standards.

The West German Government has published a timetable of events which it says reveals a remarkable indifference by the Swiss authorities, particularly as the countries which line the banks of the Rhine had a pollution alert agreement.

At 3 am on November 1 environment officials in Basle told West German water officials at the Rhine pollution emergency centre in Mannheim about the fire, but they saw no reason to operate the international Rhine warning system.

Seven hours later the Swiss Embassy in Bonn informed the West Germans of the incident, but still said there was no cause for alarm.

At the request of the West German Department for the Environment, officials in Mannheim tried to obtain details of the discharge from Basle, without a reply. Without waiting further, the West

Germany operated the Rhine alert.

At 9.30 pm officials in Basle told the Mannheim centre the pollution was worse than they thought.

It was November 2 before the official procedure, in the form of an alarm telex, was sent by the Swiss authorities.

Netherlands diverted chemical flow to quickest route to the North Sea

At a meeting of the International Rhine Commission in Colmar, France, on November 3, the Swiss delegates were still unable to say what materials had gone down the river.

On November 4 a list of the contents of building 956 was teleaxed to Bonn.

On November 7 the Swiss set a second alert after a query from water authorities from Baden-Württemberg, who had detected a second pulse of pollution.

By this time Dutch water engineers were working against the clock to divert a tide of pollution sweeping down the Rhine to prevent it spreading into rivers and canals when it reached The Netherlands on Sunday, November 9.

They used locks on Holland's water network to create a channel to funnel the waste along the swiftest route to the North Sea, preventing it spreading inland.

Mr Arnold Braun, chief engineer in the Dutch province of Gelderland, which borders West Germany, said the main aim was to direct the pollution as quickly as possible to the North Sea to prevent it reaching the IJsselmeer and vital reservoirs.

He estimated it would take four to five days, even through the fastest route, to pass into the sea. Water authorities were told to stop drawing supplies from the Rhine on Sunday and farmers were advised to move livestock from its banks.

The contamination from the first wave of pollution was gradually dispersing into the Rhine estuary yesterday.

Bonn's reaction to disaster 'too slow'

From John England, Bonn

The Rhine pollution row swamped into the Bonn Parliament yesterday when the opposition parties charged Herr Walter Wallmann, the West German Minister for the Environment, with not reacting quickly enough to the disaster.

Herr Klaus Matthiesen, a Social Democrat, and Herr Wallmann's counterpart in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, said Bonn had been late in sending his state an evaluation of the poisonousness of the chemicals that had been washed into the river.

Describing the pollution as an environmental catastrophe, Herr Matthiesen called for improvements in national and international Rhine alarm systems and an overhaul of the laws on the manufacture and storage of chemicals.

Herr Harald Schäfer, the

spokesman of the Social Democrats (SPD) on the environment, argued that all improvements in safety at firms working with dangerous substances would not, in the end, be sufficient.

Herr Wallmann, making a government statement on the consequences of the Rhine pollution, rejected the opposition attack and pointed out that West Germany had put the inter-national Rhine alarm plan into action within a few hours of the fire at the Sandoz plant in Basle.

Reporting on his meeting in Zurich on Wednesday with the environment ministers of other countries along the Rhine, Herr Wallmann said Switzerland was prepared to deal in a spirit of good will with the questions of compensation and restoration of the Rhine to its former ecological condition.



Mr Waldegrave: ministers to discuss implications

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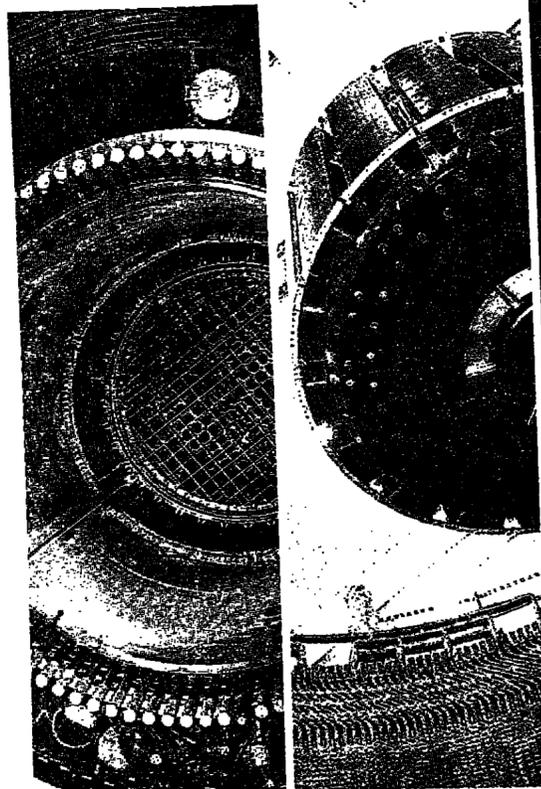
Hitachi's scientists are making tremendous progress in nuclear fusion, often called "harnessing the power of the sun." Nuclear fusion also has been called the ultimate energy source because it is generated by a mechanism similar to that of the sun. One gram of the fuel — hydrogen, deuterium and tritium — generates the same energy as 8 tons (a tank truck-full) of oil.

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We link technology to human needs. We believe that Hitachi's advanced technologies will lead to systems that are highly productive and efficient yet eminently safe and comfortable. Our goal in energy — and communications, transportation and consumer electronics as well — is to build products and systems that will improve the quality of life the world around.



Hitachi's wide-ranging technologies in energy (from left to right): nuclear power reactor, generator-motor, laser-test of LPG gas combustion, and nuclear fusion plasma testing device.

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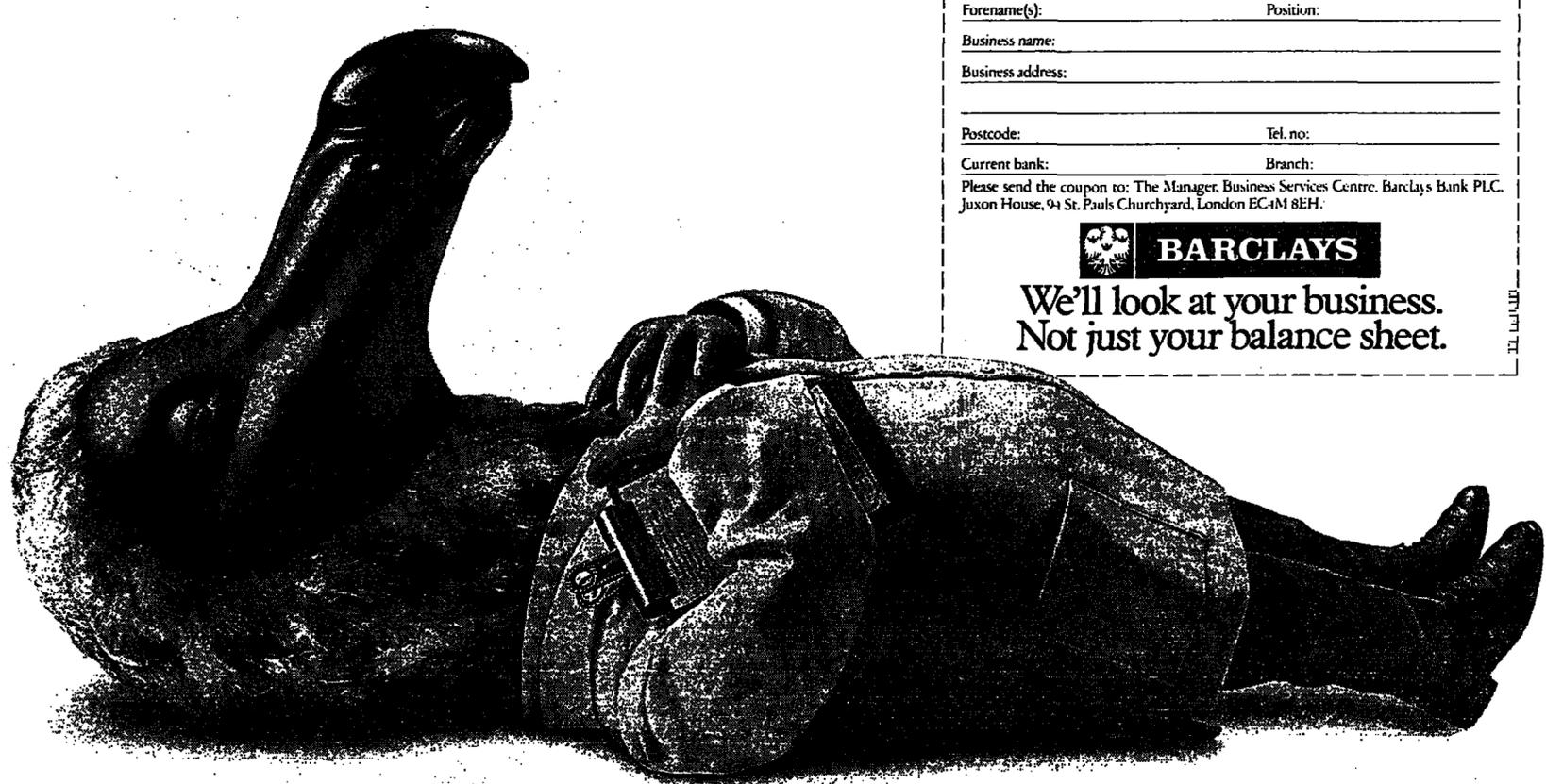
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ACH

THE ARTS

صحنه من المسرح

Black art in politics

In Fall Circle (BBC2), television emerged as a black art, only marginally understood by politicians, but avidly invoked by them to cast a short-term spell on the electorate.

This concluding programme on Number 10's relationship with the media - very much a medium of impression rather than content - began with Harold Wilson's pious imitation of President Kennedy.

But such are the satanic, magical powers swirling about Broadcasting House, that after a couple of scenes, Lord Hill himself "went native".

One Prime Minister "much too sensible" to have a public row with the BBC was Edward Heath. Looking very relaxed at last, he admitted "I was never able to project myself on television".

Coached by a former adviser to Billy Graham, Margaret Thatcher has learnt much since her 1960 television debut in which she comes across as Vera Lynn in a brace.

Yet, as with Harold Wilson, there is a smell of change in the air. White Magic is now seen as Black. "Selective seeing is believing", Mrs Thatcher complains, attacking the medium for the very way in which she has been advised to manipulate it.

Not that there was a whiff of bias in Michael Cockerell's quick-moving survey. Admittedly no other voice could make Wembley: the 1983 General Election sound as if he was wishing a casualty ward, but it was a voice which surgically removed all sorts of superstitions, left and right.

In his assiduous avoidance of politics, Cockerell did however give the impression that any election's outcome was dependent less on policy than on how well the policy-makers did on screen. What he failed to stress was that if politicians have become more adept at broadcasting their message, the public has become just as skilled in deciding whether to believe it or not.

Brass Tacks (BBC2) investigated the government's policy of releasing mentally handicapped patients into a community that turns out to be less than caring. It was an important, understated programme that raised issues that must be addressed urgently if we are not to suffer the "catastrophic" result of the same experiment in America.

Nicholas Shakespeare

Advertisement for Smooth Talk featuring Laura Dern and Treat Williams. Includes showtimes and contact information.

More agonies of the awkward age

CINEMA

Smooth Talk (15) Renoir, Bloomsbury

Extremities (18) Warner West End; Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street

Saving Grace (PG) Cannons Haymarket, Chelsea, Tottenham Court Road

Big Trouble in Little China (PG) Leicester Square Theatre

Running Scared (15) Plaza

True Stories (PG) Warner Leicester Square; Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Most current American films seem to be about the teenagers of middle-class middle America - not surprisingly since it is they who make up the biggest part of the audience.

Connie is a pain in the neck - lazy and sulky at home, trying out lurid make-up and tarty clothes, making a nuisance of herself in the shopping malls with her equally screechy girlfriends, baiting adolescent boys as inexperienced as herself.

Farah Fawcett, who played the role on the stage, marvellously sustains both the terror and the hysterical anger of the woman. James Russo, also from the stage production, is no stock villain, but a personable young man who gives a chilling plausibility to the pathological liar and killer.



Teenage wit and wisdom: Laura Dern, left, and Margaret Welch as girlfriends Connie and Laura in Smooth Talk

respect to the depressed population. It might be objected that his mighty task and all the dramatic and sentimental circumstances associated with it are improbably accomplished in the space of a week; but after all God did much more in seven days, and literal realism is none of Young's purpose here.

In Big Trouble in Little China John Carpenter, at the best of times a master storyteller, is overwhelmed by his own special effects, without a strong enough script to guide him (the screenplay was by Gary Goldman and David W. Weinstein, rewritten by W.D. Richter).

truck-driver hero (Kurt Russell) in the palatial catcomb empire of an unwillingly immortal ancient Chinese magician, beneath San Francisco's Chinatown. His quest is to rescue his best friend's fiancée, snatched by the magician who wants to make her his own bride.

The idea, clearly, was to emulate the Indiana Jones films, but the comparatively disappointing office results in the United States indicate that the balance has to be right to win the juvenile audience.

Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal, fast and caustic dialogue by Gary DeVore and Jimmy Huston and imaginative use of wintry Chicago locations.

If it does not finally work, True Stories is at least a personal approach to comedy. David Byrne of Talking Heads habitually introduces into his pop-rock sharp reflections on the dehumanization of contemporary living.

Gregory Hines and Billy Crystal, fast and caustic dialogue by Gary DeVore and Jimmy Huston and imaginative use of wintry Chicago locations.

Sharp falls a little flat

THEATRE

Country Dancing The Other Place, Stratford



Macho man and maids Gerard Murphy with Niamh Cusack

Even to those like me who know nothing else about him, Cecil Sharp is revered for having saved a mass of English folk music from falling into oblivion. As these songs and dances feature prominently in Nigel Williams's play, you would also expect the author to have a soft spot for Sharp.

But, from the first sight of the collector patronizing an old fiddler, it is clear that this evening is not addressed to devotees of the Cecil Sharp Society.

As played by Richard Easton, he comes over as a tweedy Edwardian gentleman who may love country music but is totally ignorant of the life that produced it.

What Country Dancing does go on to do is at once more and less than that. Instead of documentation, it retraces a century of musical turmoil up to 1914 through the lives of a group of villagers. Industrialism takes its toll, as they move into town in search of work. There follow strikes, lock-outs, unemployment, and renewed destitution.

What really punctures the story, however, is the treatment of the collector. It seems that Cecil Sharp, whose role in the preceding century had been to grind the faces of the workers as skintight squire, brutal factory-owner and proprietor of a dance hall charging tuppence a time for a polka.

Mr Easton gallantly undergoes these unflattering transformations, sometimes switching between past and present in a few lines of dialogue; but the part is unplayable except in the vein of coarse caricature.

The most interesting episode in the play consists of a musical duel but it is generally hard to discern any direct link between the events and the music.

Irving Wardle

DANCE

Mayerling Covent Garden

Wednesday's performance by the Royal Ballet brought together in the central roles of Mayerling three dancers all new to their parts this season and appearing together for the first time.

Antony Dowson had the hardest job. Crown Prince Rudolf is a long role and he was precipitated into it at short notice. He did pretty well - in the circumstances, impressively well. His dancing was strong and clean, his acting boldly emphatic and he coped manfully with the various female characters, prominent or secondary, whom he has to catch, lift or manipulate.

Fiona Chadwick presents Mary Vetsera as a romantically besotted girl, who throws herself into her lover's nasty games with more enthusiasm than understanding. Cynthia Harwood as the manipulative Countess Larisch is the most successful; her eyes glittering with sly cunning, her manner just that beautifully judged bit too intimate, her pride leading her insidiously into humiliation. Excellent performances too from Tracy Brown, sad and beautiful as the Empress Elisabeth, and Jonathan Burrows as the coachman who serves as the Prince's confidential go-between.

John Percival

CONCERTS

Leipzig Gewandhaus/Masur Festival Hall

Such is the accumulated distinction of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra's 200-year history that the ensemble could probably claim "special links" with nearly every Austro-German composer in its repertoire. Even so, this was a quintessential Leipzig programme.

The evening's most unusual aspect was Masur's oddly daring pacing of the Mendelssohn first movement, with the woodwind stirring their repeated chords rather self-effacingly and the string tone milked unashamedly, admittedly to gorgeous effect.

CONCERTS

Richard Morrison

was not inappropriate, though the flutes seemed far too flimsy in tone. In fact the orchestra's whole wind section sounded less than world-class: weedy rather than ready in timbre, far from exact in intonation and without crisp clarity of articulation. This shortcoming made the performance of Schubert's "Great C Major" sound duller than it should have done, considering how magnificent was the string sound which Masur deployed so effectively.

The contrast was particularly apparent in the finale. During the bars leading up to what should be the colossal and crushing entrance of the trombones, Masur increased the tension by giving special weight to the string sforzandos. But all the excitement vanished: could these muffled, wavery creatures really be trombones? At such moments safety does not come first.

Hilary Finch

Funny man in the forum

Sheridan Morley talks to Larry Gelbart, co-author of the 23-year-old show and director of its West End return tonight



Turning over a new leaf: Larry Gelbart, now a stage director

It was almost a quarter of a century ago that Frankie Howard first opened in London as Pseudolus the slave in Stephen Sondheim's A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum; tonight he returns to the role at the Piccadilly in a production already seen at Chichester this summer and directed by the show's co-author, Larry Gelbart.

The only son of a barber from Latvia, he was born in Chicago 58 years ago and then moved as a child to California with his family. "My Dad used to cut Danny Thomas's hair, and when I was 16 I already knew I wanted to write comedy so I went to work for Thomas and I guess he completed my education for me. Thomas liked me because all my jokes came very cheap, in fact at first I didn't charge at all, and from him I moved on to other radio comics like Bob Hope and Eddie Cantor in the days when radio was very big. It was Hope who took me into television, too.

he was late for the dentist. That was all, so we went away broken-hearted until that night when he rang and said he'd loved it and would be happy to direct.

Gelbart came to London with the show in 1963: "My family and I came for a month and stayed nine years, so the five children grew up here and they're all now in the business, though all we ever wanted

were lawyers and doctors with safe careers. "I don't know how we afforded to stay in London all through the 1960s, but I did some screenplay rewrites on a couple of Italian movies without signing them and I started to write for Mary Feldman. Then the idea of turning M*A*S*H into a series came along and I went back to California to write some or all of 97 episodes. I never meant to stay with the show that long, but I started co-producing and got very possessive of the show until battle fatigue set in.

"I also wrote Sly Fox at that time, which was an adaptation of Volpone, and did some work on a disastrous Broadway musical called Ballroom, and then along came Tootsie which I co-wrote for Dustin Hoffman.

"This will be my first production on stage as a director, but it seemed to go well enough at Chichester and the show is so much a part of me that, when Frankie wanted to revive it, I thought maybe the time was right for me to direct. The only trouble in the summer was that gigantic open stage: Chichester is so vast that if you want people on or off stage very fast they have to traverse about half an acre so the pace is inevitably slower; at the Piccadilly under the proscenium arch it all fits so much better, and Frankie and I have really reinvented the show. Now it is like a very early love that has come back into one's life with maybe a few wrinkles but still looking very good."

Advertisement for the opera The Rape of Lucretia. Includes cast list, reviews, and showtimes.

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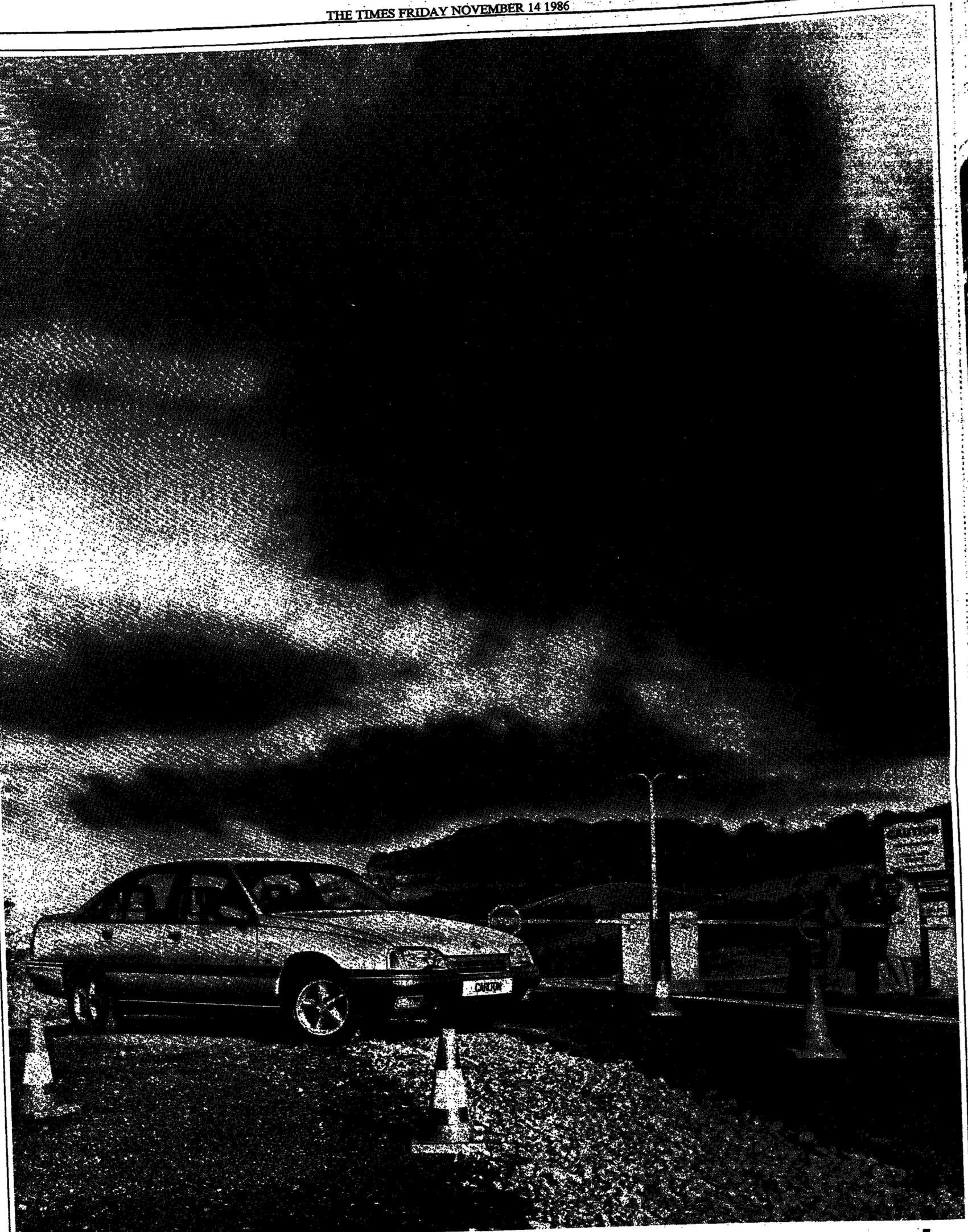
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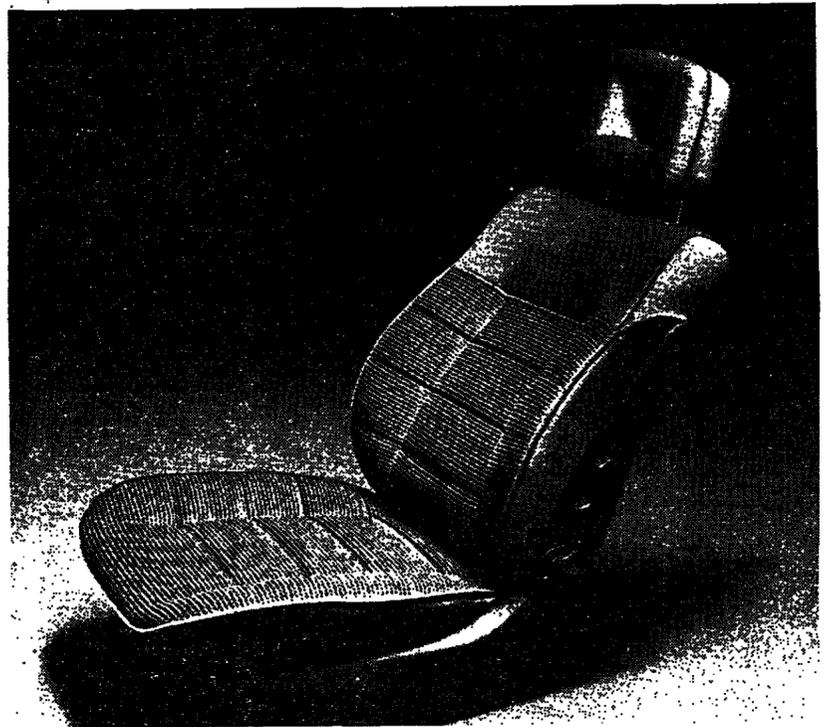
There is a new engine management system on the 2.0i models. (The very latest state-of-the-art Bosch

ML4 Motronic shown below left.)

There are new brakes. (Discs all round. And the option of the new second generation ABS.)

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SPECTRUM

The hi-tech force is with you



THE THIN BLUE LINE

British scientists are perfecting 'computer police' which will bring radical change to the way criminals are pursued and crimes proven. In America, advanced

technology is already used. In the last part of our series, Stewart Tendler examines the detective's new hardware

High on a Hertfordshire hill, in a laboratory with a boundary of double barbed wire and surrounded by grazing sheep, Home Office scientists are working on the technical equipment for tomorrow's policeman.

On a 25-acre site at Sandridge near St Albans, the scientists, working with other government departments and private enterprise, are shaping a future in which the police will be better protected, better connected and better informed.

The United States, liaising with Britain, is moving towards the thinking computer and the day when the detective becomes a 5 1/2-inch floppy disc. New techniques mean genetic fingerprinting has arrived. Real fingerprints can be lifted from more and more surfaces. Police will soon be summoning suspects' photographs from a computerized archive the size of a small filing cabinet.

On the streets, work is being directed and monitored by command and control systems and advanced telecommunications. Constables can carry computer terminals the size of slim briefcases, linked by radio to computer records.

It took more than 30 years for the Victorian policeman to move from a top hat and rattle to a cork helmet and whistle. The telephone came into police use in the early 1900s, the radio car in the 1920s, the personal radio in the 1960s and the computer a decade later.

In the 1980s the rate of technological change has accelerated, encouraged by the drive for efficiency, the seemingly unstoppable rise in crime and the unimproving level of clear-up rates. Policemen are expensive assets in need of good management, often in tandem with computerization. More men on the beat means more megabytes at the station.

Nothing provides a clearer visual image of the rate of change in the past five years than the developments in dealing with major public disorder. The police have gone from dustbin covers, cricket boxes and shinpads to flame-proof overalls, riot helmets and shields.

At the Home Office laboratory, the researchers are on

to the third helmet design in five years. The threat factor is constantly advancing - at Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, last year guns were fired at the police lines for the first time in a modern riot - and the next helmet will be lighter but tougher, made from a synthetic resin.

Researchers are looking at materials to protect police stations and vehicles from bullets, bombs and even a SAM 7 missile. Airport counters can be protected against terrorist attack with fibreglass resins.

Since the Brighton bombing in 1984, work has intensified on finding better ways to detect explosives or bombs. At Sandridge the equipment under assessment includes a Ministry of Defence backpack which sniffs gas traces of chemicals, such as nitro-glycerine, and identifies them. It can detect one part in a trillion, the equivalent of a bottle of orange juice poured into Lake Windermere.

Police have already been trained in the use of back-scatter devices which can reveal hidden objects, by bombarding an area with neutron rays which respond to hydrogen in a mass.

It was Sandridge which developed the "hooligan" to combat football hooligans with video and stills cameras equipped with 300 to 900mm lenses for identifying offenders. In the laboratories at Sandridge, photographs and tape recordings can be brought up to high levels of clarity.

The acoustic laboratories have prepared prototypes for the tape recorders to be installed in police stations nationwide. Trials, which incorporate tamper-proof mechanisms, alarms, a timing device and unobtrusive microphones, have shown an increase in guilty pleas, thus reducing court time.

A computer programme has been sent out to every force in the country which will evaluate the facilities they propose to use for recording interviews. The programme will make recommendations on how to meet required standards and at what cost.

By the next century, interviews may not only be recorded acoustically but also on video tape so that the full effect of the interview becomes apparent and further



No hiding place: Inspector Terry Cox demonstrates information retrieval in a mock inquiry. Inset: scientists can make "prints" from skin or blood. The "suspect" is a police model

reduces the risk of a challenge in court. But the journey from the scene of the crime to the interview room can be a long one for the detective pressured for results, starved of manpower and flooded with information. The scene-of-crime officer and the forensic scientist will help to ease his frustration.

In a few years the scene-of-crime man will arrive with a portable laser unit to search for fingerprints now only detectable under expensive, laboratory conditions. He will be able to take prints off rough surfaces, using a technique involving the vapour from superglue, and develop prints from fabrics such as silk using sulphur dioxide infused with a low level of radioactivity.

The time may be approaching when members of the forensic science services' respond to hydrogen in a mass. It was Sandridge which developed the "hooligan" to combat football hooligans with video and stills cameras equipped with 300 to 900mm lenses for identifying offenders. In the laboratories at Sandridge, photographs and tape recordings can be brought up to high levels of clarity.

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photographs of criminals. Developed at Sandridge, the system uses a video camera which records images on to an optical disc.

PROD will scan its files for criminals which match a witness's statement, checking through descriptions such as age groups and sex. A VDU shows the colour photograph of a named person within seven seconds. Black and white copies can be made by laser printer so that photo-

graphs can be shown to witnesses. An optical disc will hold a total of 50,000 photographs, and the entire photographic content of the country's 3.5 million criminal records would fit into a broad fronted filing cabinet.

PROD will allow police forces to build up photographic files on the specialties of criminals or their methods. Albums can then be produced for witnesses to check. Only 20 per cent of criminals in a

force area prove to be recidivists and PROD would allow for those to be easily separated from the rest.

The Home Office is also moving towards the installation of high-speed automatic fingerprint recognition (AFR), which means the computerization of the national fingerprint collection so that it can be scanned for accurate comparison with prints found at the scene of a crime or those of suspects.

Access to the collection would be open to every force by direct computer terminal instead of the current operation through a central office at Scotland Yard.

In the 1970s, it took 20 men one year to compare a print from the Black Panther, Donald Neilson, with national records; AFR would do the same task in a matter of hours, working at the rate of 10,000 prints per second.

As it turned out Neilson did not have a criminal record. Criminals, aware of modern forensic science methods, go to great lengths to minimise evidence, leaving the detective to trawl as widely as possible in the hope that clues will emerge.

The results can be chaotic as the Yorkshire Ripper case revealed: huge amounts of information were generated, including a chain of incidents which should have pointed up Peter Sutcliffe as a prime suspect. But because the storage system was manual, it was difficult to keep track of possible leads or correlate key material.

In the aftermath of the Ripper inquiry, police forces used small computers to pull together information on large inquiries and now all forces are taking up HOLMES (Home Office large/major enquiry system), a computer system developed by the Home Office which allows for fast retrieval and free text searching for major cases.

A system like HOLMES will allow the detective to compare statements and collect together facts which may make a pattern. Plans for the Police National Computer organization will mean that different computers in different forces handling major investigations

and HOLMES can be linked centrally to talk to each other, transferring information.

The PNC operation will also provide extra storage and capacity for an investigation when the force's own computer overflows. But HOLMES has its limits. It will collect details of how many ginger-haired men with red pullovers and a green car were seen near an incident once it is asked. But the next stage will be a computer which searches its records and tells the operator when something significant has been found. Knowledge based or artificial intelligence systems, under examination by America's Federal Bureau of Investigation, may make the decisions rather than the detective.

To some extent the computer is already influencing policing and detection on the ground. At Holloway in north London a desk-top machine has been used to break down local crime patterns so that policing strategies can develop week by week to meet identified problems.

Weekly reports of four types of major local crime are fed into the computer on a points system. The weekly print-out is checked and resources for the next period allocated on the basis of best experience.

It has brought significant drops in several types of crime, including burglaries, and a similar form of analysis will be available force-wide with a new large computer system. This may well produce the same frustration the north London officers experienced. With Holloway's crime patterns uncovered, commanders felt they could work wonders... but they need 50 more officers. No one is likely to design a thinking computer that can patrol the streets.

Tracing a killer in minutes

Today's low-status, low-paid, ill-educated, ill-trained American cop - it is said in the United States that anybody can become a policeman - is giving way to a highly sophisticated breed of supercop. Within 25 years, policing is going to become a profession. A professional police officer is likely to need a BA or an MA degree in the social sciences. And he will need to understand computers.

The police, like crime and criminals, are going hi-tech. One of the most far-reaching advances currently sweeping American police forces is a new kind of fingerprint computer, which could revolutionize law enforcement.

One of the most notorious killers in America was identified three minutes after California's new automated fingerprint identification system was switched on: it matched a print lifted from a car in Los Angeles to one taken from a young driver and on September 2, 1985, the "Night Stalker", a mass killer who had terrorized the city for seven months, was arrested.

Computers have been used in fingerprint detection work



Fingered: Richard Ramirez since 1976, when the FBI began converting 17 million prints to digital form. But the matching process was slow and unreliable, until a computer combining custom-made silicon chips with a new technique for analysing minutiae was produced.

In the Night Stalker case the computer compared the print of the suspected killer with 380,000 stored in its memory. It came up with the

names of 10 people whose prints most closely resembled the killer's: at the top of the list, with a probability rating four times as high as that of the nearest contender, was Richard Ramirez.

The implications are immense. The Los Angeles police alone have 4,350 unsolved murders, 2,500 unsolved rapes, and 20,000 unsolved burglaries. "There are a lot of people walking the streets out there who think they are home free," says Lieutenant Richard Olson of the Orange County Police. "Once we get these computer systems working together, they are going to be in for a surprise."

Police training academies are becoming full-service training centres, with courses in an array of new equipment and in hi-tech detective work. Within a generation it is possible that the police will carry stun guns, electronic restraint devices and surveillance equipment. The day is ending when American police send a man on to the streets with a badge, a gun, a night stick and the barest of barrack-room training.

Christopher Thomas

A solemn blot on the humorscape

Yesterday farceur Tom Sharpe found honour at a lunch in Paris. It was not much of a laugh

The Americans and the French take their humor (and I do mean the non-u variety) so seriously that it is hard not to laugh at them when they are hard at work extolling its moral virtues to the rest of the world.

Yesterday, I found myself at the Cercle Interalle in Paris's Rue du Faubourg St Honoré, which is a sort of Café Royale plus garlic, where a group of eminent ambassadors and related professionals held their tenth annual award-giving luncheon of APHIA (the Association for the Promotion of Humor in International Affairs).

The finest irony of the occasion was that the prize should have been won by the British farceur Tom Sharpe, whose sense of humour is so far removed from that of his sponsors. In fact, when Sharpe received the award, "the Legion d'Honneur", he launched into an attack on South Africa, where he had spent 10 years of his working life. The clunk of uninterested cutlery was audible.

The funniest thing about APHIA is the organization itself, which was conceived in 1969 and founded four years later by three extremely serious Americans who believed that the world of public affairs was running out of mirth.



Tom Sharpe: a serious rattle from the Parisian cutlery

APHIA holds no formal functions whatsoever, apart from this lunch: indeed, it boasts the fact that it has no offices, holds no meetings and keeps no minutes. The only proof of its existence is the lunch.

The occasion is a parody of the Nobel Prize (this bunch refers to its own offering as the Noble). After the presentation yesterday, Barbara Scott, an expatriate Englishwoman living in Paris, stood up and sang the following words, accompanying herself on a guitar.

La situation n'est pas drôle. Elle est glaciale de pole en pole. Mais nous AFIOSI, faisons face - L'humour est le seul vrai brise-glace

Former winners of the APHIA prize include John Kenneth Galbraith, the Canadian economist, and Ustinov; a gold plated tennis racket was awarded to George Mikes, and a first edition of Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn was given to Laurence Peter, the originator of the Peter Principle, which dictates that a man is promoted to the level of his least competence;

and Pierre Daninos, the French satirist.

APHIA insists that it has no formal activity, year by year, and that its prize never takes the form of a cheque. When pressed on the subject of remuneration the organizers concede that Art Buchwald received 100,800 American pennies in recognition for his passion for money; a 16th century map of the Channel Islands was awarded to Professor Parkinson, of Parkinson's Law, reflecting his pronounced affection for his home in Guernsey; a time capsule was given to Ustinov

in which he intends to contain his works for an infinite number of years, in order to prove to successive generations that humour once existed on this planet.

A limited edition of Leonardo da Vinci's "Medici Codices" went to Piet Hein, who thinks of himself as a modern day Scandinavian da Vinci. An original poster of the Marx Brothers, advertising Duck Soup, was presented to Ephraim Kishon, a fanatic reviewer of the Brothers' old films.

Alan Franks

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1106

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Decomposing (6), 2 Bileth (5), 3 Naley quered (6), 4 Amateer radio operator (5), 9 Eyeball membrane (6), 10 Extreme poverty (6), 11 Pavement edge (4), 12 Verse with name (8), 14 Yalp (6), 17 Emphatic (6), 19 Keep up (5), 22 Club fees (4), 24 Sports arenas (6), 25 Rudder handle (6), 26 Wildebeest (3), 27 Ornamental wall strip (6), 28 Long-sufferer (6), 5 Mushrooms, mildew (5), 7 Smelly (7), 8 Groove (7), 13 Fourth (7), 15 Towards stern (5), 17 Holy place (7), 18 Cable thief (7), 20 Jog (5), 21 Proverb (5), 23 Muscular (5). SOLUTION TO NO 1105: Across: 8 Transport cash 9 Add: 10 Automation 11 Dogma 13 Epitaph 14 Common 19 Owner 22 Interbred 24 Tab 25 Virginia Woolf Down: 1 Statue 2 Laptop 3 Escapade 4 Bottle 5 Scent 6 Parcel 7 Panama 12 Day 14 Slowdown 15 Oct 16 Chirpy 17 Name 18 Nordic 20 Nation 21 Rebuff 23 Rain.

SATURDAY

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Some prizes: top-glossed and ambitious during rehearsals

Around Miss World

A glitzy, glamorous media event rating above Jeux Sans Frontières but below the Olympics? Or a television-hyped international cattle market, degrading the rate of Miss World contest arouses strong feelings, both for and against. The Times went behind the scenes at the Royal Albert Hall last night for an in-depth look at the anatomy of Miss World

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السنة الجديدة

Building on Suzy's memory

The still unexplained disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh (left) has led her parents to create a trust aimed at increasing women's self-awareness. Libby Purves, invited to chair the first seminar after her *Times* article "What's so special about Suzy?", reports on the meeting

The iron calm of Diana Lamplugh is extraordinary. Less than four months ago her daughter Suzy vanished during the course of a routine appointment with a client of the estate agency where she worked. The police search has now been scaled down, and after several unpleasant calls out to check the identity of other bodies, Suzy's family still has no idea of her whereabouts and no illusions about the things that might have happened to women who have disappeared.

Yet this week there was her mother, on a platform at the Royal Society of Medicine, with her husband and other daughters in the audience, talking calmly about the missing girl and even dispassionately analysing the possible lack of self-awareness which led to trouble. "Suzy was lively, attractive," she said, "especially appealing when she was excited. When she was trying to sell something she would be very attractive - but still have no idea of how a man might react to her. She was doing a job, without regard for the fact of being female".

The audience listened attentively. This was a unique seminar, set up by Mrs Lamplugh as a sounding-board before the official launch, next month, of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. She has conceived the trust as an educational service, which would research the best ways of protecting women in the workplace without encroaching on their liberty and equality.

It would also distribute teaching aids to schools and colleges concerning something she calls "self-awareness", not self-defence in a crude, physical sense, but knowing how to make yourself less vulnerable. She has also a fighting light in her eye when she talks of employers who use attractive young women in selling roles yet "have a vested interest in keeping their employees unaware of the risk".

With this in mind, she and her collaborators - many of whom she met during her own career as a teacher and writer on exercise and relaxation - set up the seminar. There were about a hundred people there, medical and psychological, police, professional and personnel officers from all over the country. The meeting was not intended for the press and the only reason I can report, with Diana Lamplugh's blessing, is that I was the chairman. I had been

invited to chair it because she approved of an article I wrote about the underlying public attitudes to the Suzy case. Beneath the slightly academic tone of the meeting lay the consciousness of certain savage, uncivilized and irreducible facts: that some men are predators, and that even a weakish man can overpower a strongish woman. Inspector Sue Best of the Metropolitan Police pleaded for women to "understand how vulnerable we are", yet to exude bold off-putting confidence in dangerous situations. A nurse in the audience said quietly that she had "been mugged twice this year already. Something you can never get across to people is the surprise. I was paralysed with shock. A health visitor reminded us of her colleague, recently murdered".

One of the most powerful allies of the trust is Tony Black, recently retired from many years as clinical psychologist at Broadmoor. He made a brave attempt at identifying, simply, the types of male aggressor: the "pathetic botcher" - in search of love but unable to find it, replacing it with sexual attacks and brief fits of violent anger at being rejected and feared - or the man motivated by hatred and a desire to dominate, often in response to some ancient slight. "Competent, assured professional women," he observed mildly, "might well come into the category of woman he wishes to punch and humiliate."

In the audience, young solicitors and surveyors, dressed for success, stirred uneasily, recognizing the truth of a situation which could face them any day. The men listened closely, but said little. Strategies for survival were outlined trenchantly by Charles Longdon-Hughes, a former world karate champion who teaches the sport at Suzy Lamplugh's old school. He attacked the concept of "self-defence courses" as being too little, and too lightly taken. Run away, was his message. "We're socialized into looking after property," he said, "doing our job under any circumstances. We've got to learn to look after our life first. I do. Someone jumps into my car at the lights, I jump out the other door. I can always get another car."

Longdon-Hughes agreed that women - anxious to please, keen to get on in their careers in a man's world - were easy prey for attackers to lead into vulnerable situations.



Putting grief to good use: Suzy Lamplugh's parents, Diana and Paul

"Look, I know how women feel," he continued. "I'm black. I know how it is to think you've got to better than anyone else to succeed. But you've got to learn to understand risk, and get out quick."

When it came to what path the trust should take, the meeting offered a choice, ranging from the hard-line limited-target approach of the man from the National Association of Estate Agents - "the attack must be directed at employees and their following of our safety leaders' instructions" - to the broad social changes proposed by Professor Brian Groombridge of London University. He bravely talked about our need to form "an analogue of chaperonage. Not actual chaperons - not anything which would throw away 50 years of women's progress - but an equivalent of chaperonage. We may be talking about street-lighting, about the environment; we may be talking about anti-sexist education."

He cited the M4 rapist, John Steed, and his compulsive bodybuilding and passion for fast cars as being part of "a rapist culture". It seemed a significant moment, that; this was no audience of leftish,

feminist thinkers or anti-sexist campaigners; this was at least 60 per cent moderate, probably rightish, affluent Home Counties England. But an England worried enough, after the disappearance of Suzy Lamplugh, to listen at last to phrases like "rapist culture" with some humility.

"This is not frivolous," Groombridge said, "but we have one educational resource in the field of self-protection which has recently occurred to me, and we don't exploit it yet: prostitutes. They have something important to teach other women. If any group of women knows a thing or two about funny men and dangerous situations, they do. We should enlist their experience." And, he added, "We do have to change men. That's essential."

Diana Lamplugh was happy with the meeting. "I suppose it began as something just for myself," she said, "to pull something worthwhile out of the most horrendous experience. But now I've talked to so many people, I can see that even if Suzy walked back through the door tomorrow, the trust would have to go on."

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Screen benefits

Discussions on the feasibility of a breast cancer screening programme in this country tend to focus on the number of lives that could be saved. Although studies have yet to establish that younger women would benefit, experts agree that if all 50 to 74-year-old women in the country were offered regular X-ray mammography, 2,000 lives could be saved each year. But this week two doctors from Sweden, where pioneering research has been done, told a meeting in London that there were other important

MEDICAL BRIEFING

benefits of screening. Doctors Bengt Lindgren and Anders Helleberg, from the Swedish county of Gavle, said that because regular screening allows cancers to be detected earlier, treatment need not be so aggressive. When routine screening was first offered in Gavle in 1975, only 11 per cent of all cancers detected were so-called stage 1 or small, localized tumours. Nearly 90 per cent were advanced cancers which required treatment such as mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Now more than 70 per cent of tumours detected are stage 1. The result by 1985, 60 per cent of the women in the county with breast cancer needed only to have the lump removed and no more than 28 per cent had to have a mastectomy. No patient had to have post-operative radiotherapy.

British surgeons who were present at the meeting were not convinced that the Swedes' gentle approach would work. But Dr Helleberg told the meeting that very few of the women tested in this way had had a recurrence of their breast cancer which could not be treated - and the majority of these probably had more widespread disease than originally thought.

Young eyes

Many health authorities recommend that children should have their eyes checked for the first time when they are about three-and-a-half years old. But specialists are beginning to suspect that, in some cases, this may be too late and that some defects may not be correctable at that age, but would be if the children were treated earlier.

Five years ago a big screening programme began in Cambridge and Bristol. So far 8,000 babies, aged six to nine months, have had their eyes tested. Dr Janette Atkinson, from Cambridge University's visual development unit says the study has shown that those children who have refractive errors (long or short-sightedness) as babies are highly likely to still have the problem at three-and-a-half. But if spectacles are used in the first year the child is far more likely to have normal vision three years later.

Wheel thing

Cycling is one of the best ways to keep fit, according to sports science specialists at the University of Birmingham. They studied nearly 1,400 factory workers from Cadbury Schweppes's Bourneville plant to see just how fit they were and how much exercise they took.

The overall results were - perhaps not unexpectedly - disappointing. Most of those tested could only be described

Stick stuck

Those getting ready for the party season should be warned of a "new and potentially serious hazard associated with the hasty ingestion of martinis (or Gibson's)", as reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Daniel Malamud, a PhD student at Pennsylvania University, downed his Gibson (gin, ice, essence of vermouth, and several cocktail onions on a flat wooden toothpick) rather too quickly. The toothpick lodged in his throat and when he tried to cough it up it stuck in the back of his nose. It took a trip to the emergency room and some adroit work with forceps to get it out.

Double-checking on polio

Doctors from the Central Public Health Laboratory have warned school-leavers to be sure to have a polio booster. Concern that the level of immunity to poliomyelitis might not be high enough in some sections of the community led Dr Phillipa White and Dr Jonathan Green to test nearly 1,000 people - including babies and the very old - for immunity. They found that 98 per cent of people were protected against at least one of the three main polio viruses and that 77 per cent had adequate protection against all three.

But by the time children reach the ages of eight to 15, their immunity to polio virus - Type 3 in particular - was on the wane.

Oral polio vaccines are safe for the person being inoculated: they contain live polio virus which has been treated to make it non-virulent. But sometimes a newly vaccinated person will excrete polio virus which has reverted to its virulent form, especially with polio virus Type 3. Those with poor Type 3 immunity risk catching the disease from someone who has recently been vaccinated. Older teenagers have better Type 3 immunity than eight to 15-year-olds, but the associated risk makes a booster vaccination important.

Lorraine Fraser

TALKBACK

position where gravity aids the dilation of the birth canal instead of delivery in a reclining position where the mother struggles and strains to get the baby out; the judicious prescribing of homeopathic remedies where suitable, and finally progressively stronger pelvic floor exercises after the birth can all help to reduce the currently vast number of women (about 37 per cent of whom have had at least one baby) suffering from stress incontinence.

What a pity the doctors so underestimate the help of physiotherapists.

From Catherine Mitchell, Haworth Hall, Beverley Road, Hull.

I read *Married To Affairs Of State* (Wednesday Page, November 5) with interest. It seemed to take for granted that there were no women high-fliers or even male diplomatic husbands. Is this truly the case? I do hope not.

I do not mean that I would like to see men tramping to the fore corners of the globe after their wives, but surely there must be some examples of a male dilemma.

Festive cheer

Fine Christmas wines deserve fine glass. Quite why Libby's 55 or even Libby's Chateau Ordinaire should taste infinitely better out of the thinnest, most delicate lead crystal glasses is a mystery to me (writes Wine Correspondent Jane MacQuitty). But it does. The thinnest, rimless crystal that is both practical and affordable is best. A complete set of white, red, fortified and sparkling wine glasses is a wonderful sight, but if this is outside your Christmas budget, opt instead for a good all-purpose tulip shaped wine glass.

© This week, *The Times* in conjunction with Liberty, is offering its readers the chance to meet Jane MacQuitty to discuss crystal, claret and more. She will be joining other *Times* experts at the London store on an evening when *Times* readers are invited to shop without the Christmas crowds. On Tuesday, December 2, from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, other attractions at the Regent Street store will include author Jilly Cooper signing copies of her latest book *How*

To Survive Christmas and a draw which offers, amongst other prizes, a weekend for two in Bavaria. For those readers unable to come to London, Liberty stores throughout the country will similarly be opened exclusively for *Times* readers on the same day at the same time. Each store will feature a free draw which includes as a prize a £100 Liberty gift voucher. You will be welcomed with a glass of wine and a Liberty gift. In addition, for every £50 you spend during the evening, Liberty will present you with a £5 gift voucher.

To take up our invitation, cut out the vouchers below and send it to Liberty Evening, *The Times*, P.O. Box 396, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2XH by Wednesday, November 19. Please indicate which branch you will visit. These are: Regent Street, London; New Bond Street, Bath; Trinity Street, Cambridge; Bargeat, Canterbury; George Street, Edinburgh; Buchanan Street, Glasgow; King Street, Manchester; London Street, Norwich; Davygate, York.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Relearning the drill

Who says PHS plays but a peripheral role in the great affairs of state? I learn from John Berrow, chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students, that this very column was instrumental in Norman Tebbit's action disbanding it. "The feeling in Central Office was that the decision not simply to send a get-well card to General Pinochet of Chile (after the assassination attempt in September) but to publicize it in the Times Diary really was the last straw," he tells me. (For my part, I cannot see the point of the FCS sending the telegram if it did not make it public.) Meanwhile, I am told that down at Smith Square the FCS's sober successor, the Conservative Collegiate Forum, is recalling many a tin of blanco and miserable afternoons spent square-bashing. For public schools the initials CCF will always stand for Combined Cadet Force.

Left turn

Stuart Holland, Labour's overseas development spokesman, has resigned from the left-wing Campaign group of MPs only weeks after his name was omitted from its shadow cabinet slate. In a resignation letter, quoted in this week's Tribune, Holland accuses Campaign members of no longer wishing to support "diverse or even new" viewpoints. "Too many members draw lines each week and ask who stands on the left of them," he says. Holland, still a member of the rival Tribune group, can take cheer from the comments of Clare Short, who bears the yoke of belonging to both Tribune and Campaign. Dual membership, she once observed, meant double the membership fees, twice the number of boring meetings and "twice the abuse from both sides."

● Paper Handling Ltd's inspired choice of name for its new range of paper-shredders: The Whitehall.

Revved up

It seems a long time since Hell's Angels were the greatest threat known to man's kneecaps but after yesterday's headlines they are obviously making a comeback. Terry Purser, a Margate trader, has taken exception to a Hill Samuel advertisement warning that unwise investors "could end up in Margate not the Seychelles". He says that unless Hill Samuel apologizes he will buy £100 of shares and invade its annual meeting "accompanied by a bunch of 30 shareholding Hell's Angels who will drink the place dry".

Streetwise

London stipendiary magistrate Eric Crowther writes in the current issue of the Magistrates' Association magazine of a woman convicted of soliciting who asked for time to pay her fine. "How long do you need?" asked the bench. "About 20 minutes should do," Crowther swears she replied.

Camden gloss

The housing benefit office of London's left-controlled Camden council offers a most unlikely choice of reading. There was no Morning Star or New Statesman available the other day - just Vogue and Harpers & Queen.

BARRY FANTONI



"But there's no mention of compensation for injuries caused by broken election promises"

Contortions

London Regional Transport has banned an advertisement for the game Trivial Pursuit from tube trains because it was "likely to offend passengers". The mock questions and answers which were to have appeared in the ad are indeed too snappy for me to repeat here. But I think they could probably have got away with "What part of their anatomy do 34 million Americans secretly bite? Answer: Their toenails."

Political palates

My quest for dishes you would serve our leading politicians should they turn up on your doorstep has found its way into the real world in a book called A Taste of Fame, in which sundry top people reveal their favourite food. I envisaged the Davids - Owen and Steel - fighting over a plate of bubble-and-squeak. In fact, the former goes for kidneys and the latter for Welsh rarebit. Sir Geoffrey Howe has forgone my choice of Cabinet pudding in pursuit of a (non-political) hotpot. Europhile Ted Heath has spurned my souz grapes for French onion soup. And the Iron Lady has rejected my bully beef for a plate of chicken - served cold.

Arms: a message for Reagan

by David Steel

A year ago I became one of the first patrons of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Movement, which aims to halt the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons as a first step to general arms reductions. A lot has happened since then.

Most significant was the Reykjavik summit at which the two superpowers agreed to a 50 per cent cut in strategic weapons, the total removal of intermediate weapons (Cruise, Pershing 2 and SS20s) from Europe, and to steps towards a comprehensive test ban. This fell on the stumbling block of a full testing and development programme for President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative.

Nevertheless, a useful framework for a future treaty has been established. Accordingly, when Mrs Thatcher sees the President tomorrow, she should stress the European reservations about Star Wars and emphasize the risks posed by new technologies to much of the potential progress that the summit promised.

Indeed, the major failing of previous SALT agreements was their concentration on the numbers of weapons to the virtual exclusion of restrictions on the qualitative improvements taking place at the same time. Unfortunately these improvements led to fears on each

side of a pre-emptive strike. No matter how much the superpowers may protest that they would never strike first, the fact that such a strike may appear technically feasible is bound to increase tensions in peace-time as well as in times of crisis. That is where the concept of a nuclear freeze has a useful role to play. It could build mutual confidence by creating a stable environment in which negotiations for deep cuts could take place.

That could be agreed at the next Reagan-Gorbachov summit. The superpowers would thereby demonstrate a commitment to arms control and to achieving a new system of common security.

Avoiding further development and deployment of tactical nuclear weapons is particularly important. At present, the Soviet Union has about 14,000 and the USA 12,000 tactical warheads. The increasing sophistication of these weapons encourages military planners to believe that fighting and even winning a limited nuclear war is possible. We must halt these developments while pressing for negotiations on a 150 km tactical nuclear weapon free zone on each

side of the East/West border. In the same spirit, the British government should pursue these policies:

- A commitment to maintain a minimum deterrent capacity at a level no greater than that of the current Polaris system, until that too can be negotiated away in return for worthwhile Soviet concessions. The Conservative proposal for a massive increase in the firepower of our deterrent would not only severely strain our total defence budget but might also block the 50 per cent cuts proposed at Reykjavik. It is essential, then, that Trident be cancelled.
- We must give a high priority to fostering the disarmament process which, if successful, would mean that our minimum nuclear deterrent could be included in multilateral disarmament negotiations. With deep cuts in US and Soviet arsenals, and increased political and military coherence in Europe and Nato, the maintenance of our minimum deterrent in the mid to late 1990s might not be required.
- A high priority must be given to strengthening non-proliferation. As one of the parties to the Comprehensive Test Ban talks, Britain must take the initiative in

trying to revive negotiations. In the meantime, we should agree voluntarily to a freeze on nuclear weapons testing - and encourage the US to do likewise.

● The government should withdraw its support for the "Star Wars" strategic defence programme. This, in fact, is a programme in search not only of feasibility but also of a strategy. It has succeeded in holding arms control hostage to the myth that an effective defence against ballistic missiles can be developed, and has threatened to break the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, the most successful arms control agreement to date.

Britain's subservience to the Reagan view should be replaced by one of an honest, fiscally yet critical ally. We must urge the US to negotiate a strengthening of the ABM treaty so that withdrawal from it would require five years' notice.

The true significance of Reykjavik is still difficult to assess, particularly after the hard words on both sides in the last few days. But we can be certain that what progress there was is unlikely to be consolidated, and certain not sustained, unless those who have dug themselves into a hole just stop digging.

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As little as a year ago it would have seemed inconceivable that Norman Tebbit, Tory Party chairman and darling of the right, would have expelled from the party the young gorillas of the right, the Federation of Conservative Students. Yesterday Tories - of all shades of blue - were still uncertain exactly why he had done.

The fiercely Thatcherite FCS was certainly capable of embarrassing the Tory establishment - their elders and wretches, as they liked to call them. There was the infamous rampus in 1985 at their annual conference in Loughborough when the party had to pay out £1,391 in reparations for the damage they had caused to halls of residence. There was the still greater embarrassment earlier this year when an FCS magazine published an article accusing Harold Macmillan of "war crimes" over the repatriation of Ukrainian prisoners to the Soviet Union. The FCS had become notorious for espousing ridiculous policies (decriminalized incest, legalized heroin, privatizing the Royal Family) alongside more sober libertarian proposals - major increases in privatization and help for the Nicaraguan contras.

But against this the party leadership had to set the undoubted power of the FCS in recruiting hard-working Conservative activists in the universities. The FCS was also seen by many on the party right as a useful counterweight to the leftish Young Conservatives. While the FCS has given its support to Tebbit and Mrs Thatcher, the YCs have been dominated by the influence of Peter Walker and the Tory wets.

Perhaps the most dangerous argument of all against removing the party's backing from the organization was the smack of authoritarianism behind it. At the same time as attacking the intolerance of "the fascist left" and the anti-democratic practices of trade unions, the party could be seen as attempting to snuff out intellectual dissent within its own ranks and replacing the democratically elected FCS national committee with a hand-picked body to be known as the Conservative Collegiate Forum.

So why did Tebbit decide to act? The theory most favoured by the FCS itself is that this is the climax of a long-running campaign by their left-wing opponents to destroy their influence in the party. Douglas Smith, a former vice-chairman of the federation, claims that Tebbit has been duped. "There are people in the Young Conservatives and Central Office who have been gunning for the

Toby Young gives the background to the Central Office action against the FCS

Why Tebbit shot down his followers



Charles Addams © The New Yorker

"Well, Kendrick, still think I'm just an alarmist?"

FCS for a considerable time," he said yesterday.

In support of this claim, Smith, now a research assistant to Neil Hamilton MP, cites the recent rule changes made to the National Union Executive Committee, which presides over the Conservative students. These excluded the right-wing National Association of Conservative Graduates from the committee. In addition to this, Smith alleges that a senior Central Office official recently wrote to two ministers, Mrs Angela Rumbold and Rhodes Boyson, urging them not to speak

at this weekend's annual conference of the right-controlled Greater London Young Conservatives. Such facts spell conspiracy to the Machiavellian-minded Smith.

An alternative explanation is that Tebbit himself felt that he risked too much embarrassment from the activities of his erstwhile supporters. With the growing impatience at FCS antics within the Tory ranks, their continued presence in Conservative Central Office was felt to be a potential political timebomb for their most publicly identified champion, the

party chairman. The theory runs that, far from the wets orchestrating the purge from afar, it was Tebbit's personal decision. The news of yesterday's decision certainly came as a surprise to many senior Central Office figures as well as to the FCS.

Whatever the reason for the withdrawal of party accommodation and funds from the FCS, those who hope that its militancy will go away may be disappointed. Harry Phibbs, vice-chairman of the FCS and the man behind the "war criminal" allegations, yesterday made a direct appeal to the Prime Minister, stressing the loyalty of "one of the few party organizations firmly supportive of your policies and your premiership". It is hardly conceivable that Mrs Thatcher would intervene to overrule the party chairman. But it is unlikely to be the last that she and her party will hear from Phibbs.

Prospects for harmony between the various Tory youth factions may not necessarily be improved either. Only last month in Bourne-mouth a fracas took place when two members of the FCS tried to gatecrash the official reception of the National Young Conservatives and Phibbs was forcibly ejected by Mark Worrall, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party Youth Department.

At the previous year's reception several members of the FCS had got into trouble for jostling Edward Heath. "They're just out to cause trouble," said Shirley Stotter, who has the unenviable job of heading the Central Office Youth Department and who was present at the time.

Much of the responsibility for pouring oil upon these troubled Tory waters now rests with John Berrow, former Chairman of the FCS who is staying on as Chairman of the Conservative Collegiate Forum, which is to replace it as the Party's student wing. "It took a fair degree of incompetence on behalf of some members of the FCS to alienate the most sympathetic chairman we've ever had," he says. Berrow, who fell out with his National Committee when he condemned Phibbs over the New Agenda affair, welcomes Tebbit's decision.

It is always dangerous to take student politics too seriously. But it may be more misleading to ignore them altogether. The Young Conservatives - in spite of their mainly social reputation - have catapulted large numbers of MPs into Westminster. The FCS hoped to become an equally effective ladder. Some of its leaders will fight on to transform that hope into a reality.

Shotgun marriage alive and thriving

Paris In cohabitational France, who directs foreign policy? For the past week Jacques Chirac, the prime minister, has dominated the world headlines with his forthright commentary in the Washington Times on France's Middle East policies, suspicions over the deal behind the return of two more French hostages from Beirut, and his public tributes to Syria less than 24 hours after approving Britain's, admittedly fairly mild, anti-Syrian package of measures.

Where has President Mitterrand been meanwhile? Does he approve of all that has been going on? Did he have a hand in them? Mitterrand has said not a word about these particularly sensitive issues, though he had not hesitated to criticize other aspects of the government's policies. In an interview with this week's Le Point magazine, Mitterrand speaks for the first time since the right-wing election victory in March about his conception of the relative powers and duties of president and prime minister, insisting notably that the president has a pre-eminent role in foreign policy and defence.

Was it to check Chirac's increasingly audacious sallies into both those areas that he chose to reassert his authority in this way? The interview marks a definite hardening of his views from before the election, when he spoke of foreign policy being a divided responsibility. In the Le Point interview he now argues that "the person who has the ultimate responsibility for the use of our arms and thereby the decision on which the fate of the country depends is the head of state. He must therefore logically fix the broad options for national

defence... Of course, the prime minister and the government play a large part in the initiative..."

On foreign policy he insists that the constitution bestows on him certain duties which entail certain rights - and on essential matters these are "pre-eminent."

Mitterrand goes on to claim, however, that there was little problem between himself and the government over foreign policy, which was continuing in the same basic direction on Europe, the Atlantic alliance, the Arab countries, and Africa. The early disagreements over South Africa, Chad and the US "Star Wars" programme had been ironed out (in Mitterrand's favour). "I do not complain when I see the prime minister developing with great dynamism the policies which suit me," he says. On the other hand, he insists that the government is entirely responsible for domestic policies.

Even before the elections, Mitterrand always said that he would "allow the government to govern" while insisting that he would not remain "inert". He has done just that. He has not harried or obstructed the government as much as he could have done, although he has set down certain markers of disapproval: on privatization, new constituency boundaries, changes to the redundancy laws, the excessive use of the guillotine procedure in parliament, the proposed reform of the nationality code - all ready for casting into electoral votes when the time comes.

Many predicted that, far from cohabitating, Chirac and Mitterrand would be involved in head-on clashes, leading to government paralysis and weakening France's voice abroad. But they have



Mitterrand: first to realize his loss of power

shown that cohabitation can work. Largely that has been due to Mitterrand's unexpected willingness to change virtually overnight from an absolute sovereign with more power than any other western monarch deprived of virtually all real executive power save that of dissolving parliament and pressing the nuclear button.

Mitterrand appeared to realize sooner than his opponents that he had no option. No longer having a majority in parliament or controlling the nation's purse strings, he could not block government actions; at best he could only delay them. Better, therefore, to submit graciously and bide his time, with an occasional public protest to show he is still there.

His first public criticism of the government caused consternation, and when he refused to sign the government's decree on privatization in July there was excited talk of a crisis and early presidential elections. But by the time Mitterrand refused to sign the government's decree on the new

constituency boundaries in September there was scarcely a murmur. Jacques Toubon, the normally outspoken general secretary of the Gaullist RPR, said he would lose no sleep since the government could push the measure through parliament in the form of a bill, which it did.

The French people applauded the semblance of political harmony induced by cohabitation; 78 per cent, according to opinion polls, hope that it will last until the next presidential election in 1988. Both Mitterrand and Chirac are riding high in popularity esteem. Not since de Gaulle came to power in 1958 has France appeared so united.

Indeed, some people are beginning to believe that the electorate has enjoyed the experience so much that they will try it again, either by voting in another left-wing president and giving him a right-wing majority in parliament, or vice versa.

Will cohabitation leave its mark on France even if it does not continue? Mitterrand believes and hopes so. Under the Third and Fourth Republics, he says, the president had too little power and under the Fifth too much. "The present situation is sketching out, with a lot of groping around, an approach which will remain even if the president and parliamentary majorities coincide again."

David Watt Lingered echoes of the Raj

Madras Remembrance Sunday in Madras. A nice conjuncture. There is a lot for the British to remember in the city of Clive and Cornwallis. In fact "all our pomp of yesterday" is on minuscule display here. The spacious imperial boulevards, now renamed after obscure Tamil politicians, are potted, their lofty facades covered with a riot of small shop signs. The big admiral's private bungalows are partitioned into mouldering tenements. The monuments of Victorian Madras - the colossal headquarters of the southern railway (a kind of Indian St Pancras) and the High Court building (a glorious confection of domes and turrets) are falling to pieces.

The less essential amenities of empire have been swept away with a deliberate hand. The racecourse has been closed for the moral good of the masses, the governor's mansion is a crumbling hostel for impoverished state legislators. The East India Company's magnificent banqueting hall, though still in use by the state establishment, shares its facilities with the Tamil Nadu radio.

It is a melancholy prospect - but not quite in the way you might suppose. There are worse fates for any civilization than to have its artefacts recycled by its successor. The Indian jungle and the open air reclaimed the imperial relics of the Moghuls. It seems better that a jungle tide of humanity should engulf the remains of the British Raj. But what is really saddening is that in Madras the intangible benefits of British India are now being submerged as well.

In Delhi a westernized elite calls the administrative tines. In the booming economic centres - Bombay and Bangalore (India's silicon valley) - a cosmopolitan, modernizing business class is in control. Here in the sleepy south east, as in many other parts of the provinces, the British and American-educated middle class is being shut out from power.

Populist politicians have captured the mass vote by a mixture of charisma, linguistic nationalism and ruthless machine politics. Priorities have changed. Free food comes before buildings and roads and adequate power supply. Educational opportunity comes before standards. The peasant takes precedence over the urban poor. This can be seen to be an inevitable and even a desirable stage in Indian development. Certainly it is politically effective.

In the state of Tamil Nadu it does not matter that the chief minister, an ex-film star called M.G. Ramachandran, has had a stroke and can barely communicate, that a lot of his ministers are stupid and some corrupt, that the Madras business community is in despair. The present state government will win the next election with a landslide.

The trouble is that under this kind of regime the economic life is moribund to the political needs of the present. The fact that the past is also sold up would not matter so much, except that in India the recent past - Western

modernization - is also the key to the economic future. The intellectual remnants of the Raj are the foundation on which their future will be built - if the foundation and its custodians survive.

And are they surviving? Does life still stir in these ruins? Come with me to the Armistice Day Service at St Mary's, the 17th century garrison church of Fort St George, the old seat of British Government in Madras. It is a wonderfully odd occasion - part still very British. A harassed English clergyman, clearly an ardent member of the peace movement, leads us reluctantly through a heavily bowlerized service from which all reference to the possibility of a just war has been firmly removed and a hymn of his own devising about "the mud-splashed shores of Madras and the rubble of Vietnam" inserted (to the tune of *Owm Rhonda*). The British deputy high commissioner and the German consul general read the lessons.

A great cloud of British-Indian witnesses looks down on the proceedings from the memorials on the walls - Colonel Neill who died in 1832 "from the effects of a coup de soleil", Josiah Webber (1770-1804) "whose extensive knowledge of the Eastern languages forwarded his rise to stations of high trust where his ambition was fired to exert the honour and interest of his country". Major Langley RE "who died from injuries received in an encounter with a tiger", the Rev Christian Gericke, "destined to labour in a peculiar vineyard (that of the conversion of the natives of India)".

But the church is full to overflowing. The path is lined by Indian girl guides in full rig. Two Indian civilians wearing Second World War medals lay vast wreaths. The Indian garrison commander leads a prayer. An Indian professor gives the sermon and quotes from Wilfred Owen. And we all, both British and Indian, listen in silence to the *Last Post* and sing *Abide With Me*.

Follow now to a big party at an Indian house the same night. Will only half a dozen exceptions the guests are middle-class Indians. Much whisky and gin and tonic. Much talk of recent trips abroad and of children in Britain and the United States. Many shrugs and curses at the state of Tamil Nadu politics.

The room is called to order. It is to be a musical evening, a sing-song. Sheets are handed round. A charming Indian musician (whose first name is Handel because his father had heard *Messiah* the night before he was born) seats himself at the electric organ and for the next hour plays a string of English and American tunes. Everyone bursts into song - *The Lincolnshire Poacher*, *Swanee River*, *Get Me to the Church on Time*.

Suddenly we turn a page and sing *Back Up Your shoulders in Your Old Kit Bag and in Your Long Way to Tipperary*. I have a feeling that Wilfred Owen and Major Langley RE, and even the Rev Gericke, would be pleased.

moreover... Miles Kington Sleuthing beside the Tiber

In Paris they sometimes have fierce arguments over whether the banks of the Seine should be for cars or people. In Rome they have come to a pleasant compromise; there are no cars or people on the banks of the Tiber, or at least there were none last Saturday afternoon as we strolled along the huge white river walk overlooking by graceful plane trees. The only sign of previous human presence at all, apart from the graffiti, was the handbag.

It was a dark blue, quite stylish handbag, lying on the edge of the river, torn open and all the contents scattered on the ground. It was as if the owner had been searching desperately for a paper tissue or key ring and then, driven frantic by failure, had jumped in the Tiber to end it all. The more we thought about it, the less likely a theory this seemed. What seemed much more likely, judging by the way the strap had been torn loose and the lining ripped open, was that a thief had grabbed the handbag and come down to the Tiber to inspect the contents at his leisure, and dump the residue.

There certainly seemed to be nothing of value among the cards and documents strewn on the grass: no money, or passports. On the other hand, would the cards not be valuable to the owner? Are not even receipts and permits irreplaceable? Would it perhaps be a good idea to find out who...?

I don't think I have ever before been in the position of looking through a person's portable secrets, attempting to do a police reconstruction job. Once you have picked up the first few pieces, you can't help going on. You feel involved, sucked into someone else's life. Her name was Brigitte Promell. She was about 30, bespectacled, plainish, with long, dark hair, which it did not take a Sherlock Holmes to deduce because her photograph was on every student card. And she had been a student for a long time; there were college identity cards from London, Tel Aviv, Madrid and Germany, the earliest dated 1975.

exercised book with about 20 pages filled with first steps in Italian. So, she had come to Rome to learn Italian. One of the identity cards gave her nationality as French, though this did not seem likely. Brigitte is not a French name, unless it's a misspelt Brigitte, and she had written in the exercise book "cattivo = schlecht". If she were French, would she not have written "cattivo = mauvais"?

She had come from Munich to Rome via Florence (a rail ticket receipt) and had not been well in Munich (a sick pay voucher and hospital appointment card). There was a Munich address and a German parking permit. The only thing missing was any clue as to her whereabouts in Rome. My heart sank at the idea of handing it all in to the police, who would make me fill up endless forms and even suspect me of the crime. And then, previously unseen, there surfaced out a scrap of paper with the address of the YWCA in the Via Casar Bello.

This was infuriating. What I really wanted to do was leave the whole lot lying there. Now I had a clue as to where she might be staying, and a Good Samaritan would go rushing off to the YWCA. I would describe my attitude as that of a Grudging, Bad-Tempered Samaritan.

"Yes," said the YWCA concierge, "we do have a Brigitte Promell here. I'll get her down for you." The concierge was strict and unyielding. So were all the other girls wandering around, and so was Brigitte Promell when she appeared, until she saw her handbag. Then it was shrieks of delight and Oh look, there's my rail ticket. She would not have been quite so delighted if she had known how nearly I left it on the river bank, or how thoroughly I had rooted through her life story. I wanted to ask her why she had fished out her nationality down as French, why she had been in hospital, why on earth she had gone on being a mature student for ten years and wasn't it about time she grew up, and did something?

That she seemed to be still a student was suggested by an



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THE BOBBY'S RETURN

The nineteenth-century writer, Alexander Herzen, remarked that while seeing a policeman in Russia had an effect like a tile falling on one's head, in England the same sight surprisingly increased one's sense of security. Broadly, the observation remains true today. In spite of the ferment of debate about policing in Britain over the last fifteen years, public trust in the police remains high.

But it has shown signs of wear and tear in recent years. Paradoxically, that change has taken place just as evidence emerges — some of it in our series on the police this week — that a very long and gradual change in police attitudes is bringing some small rewards. That change is commonly called "community policing", although it would be better described as a massive process of police adjustment to post-war social changes.

The years preceding the First World War saw a sharply rising crime rate. A relatively stable period followed until the steady rise of the last thirty years. During that last phase the police found themselves under pressure from accelerating social and cultural change. They themselves were coping with technological change, abandoning foot patrolling for panda cars, mastering electronic systems. Social work done informally by parents, teachers and policemen began to be distributed among increasingly specialised agen-

cies: probation departments, psychologists and community workers.

In more recent years, economic recession has tightened social tensions. The defects of the public housing of the sixties have become more and more obvious. Prisons and the criminal justice system have, with rising crime, become seriously overloaded. The last two decades have seen the recurrence of three kinds of policing problem which are familiar to history but which had been absent in the previous twenty years; terrorism, major public order disturbances and small areas of poverty and misery which effectively do not wish to be policed.

Any one of these pressures would have produced strain inside police forces which tend to change only slowly. Taken together they have meant that Britain's policemen have been suffering a prolonged transitional phase of their history. The last fifteen years have seen them slowly rethink their relationship with the public — something effected while the political debates raged outside the forces themselves.

What some policemen, and not a few politicians, condemned as trendy or soft goes deeper than a superficial style of policing. The fundamental, constant objective of upholding the law has to be reached by routes which are fitted to the society which is being policed. The police have

discovered — or rather rediscovered — that they cannot succeed without a close and sensitive connection to the communities they are in.

Much of the tension between police and inhabitants in inner-city areas with high crime rates has arisen in the past from the police's inability to know enough about who is actually committing crime. Operation Swamp, which preceded the Brixton riots of 1981, was a classic example of the police infuriating the public in a random sweep for criminals they could not identify and few of whom were caught. Community policing is one route to better detective work.

A very different kind of policing issue has made prominent headlines more recently. There has been a steady series of controversies over special task forces trained to respond to emergencies and sudden disturbances. The riots of 1981 saw the development of physical protection for policemen. This appeared to undermine the renewed emphasis on personal communication with the public. Similarly the miners strike raised the unattractive possibility of a nationally-controlled police force.

Important as these are and have been, they are secondary to the necessary and beneficial developments described above. Energies and resources should not be diverted from the most important changes of all — and they are not finished.

EUROPE GROUNDED

Europe stalled badly on the issue of air rights this week and now looks unlikely to recover before Britain relinquishes its seat at the controls in seven weeks time. Of all the areas in which the Government had hoped to make some progress during its six months in the presidency, this one had looked the most promising. The failure of Transport Ministers to make the necessary headway at their Brussels meeting is therefore all the more depressing.

They have made some progress. On the question of sharing out airline seats, for instance, the ministers voted 10-2 in favour of the British proposal, while on that of access to routes the voting was 9-3. With majority voting shortly to be introduced on issues concerning the internal market, such margins might raise hopes that the end of protectionism in the skies above Europe is nigh. But on the issue which matters most, that of price-fixing, the Community split down the middle, with France, Greece, Denmark, Italy, Portugal and Spain all opposing reform.

They were debating, moreover, a set of proposals which represented only a very modest compromise. On the sharing of business between any two countries, for instance, the package would have ended the present cosy 50-50 airlines deal — but only just. On the issue of tariffs, the Twelve

were confronted with a proposal to remove the present restrictions on discount fares — restrictions which effectively exclude businessmen. Both were voted down.

If Europe cannot agree on reforms as cautious as these, Europe is never going to agree on anything. Indeed some more radical critics of the present price-fixing system took a perverse delight in seeing the package rejected, on the ground that it was hardly worth having. In their view it was tactically better to let the European Commission carry out its threat to take airlines to court for transgressing the anti-protectionism rules in the Treaty of Rome.

This is not the view of the British Government which holds that the way forward lies through a state-by-state approach. Talks will now take place to establish whether the remaining gaps can be closed in time for the next council meeting in mid-December. Such optimism is based partly on the belief that if only France can be persuaded, the Mediterranean powers will follow.

That sounds over-optimistic. The chances of getting the Community to commit itself to an "open skies" policy before the end of the year now look remote. So where does one go from here?

The most sensible course for Britain would be to extend its

small network of bilateral deals to cover as many of the partners as possible. Such agreements have already been signed with Belgium, the Netherlands, West Germany and Luxembourg and would seem to be working reasonably well. Since the bilateral deal with Holland in 1984, the cheaper fares have already brought increased business, with 17 new services — seven of them on new routes. Twenty new services, 13 of them on new routes, have been started between Britain and West Germany over a similar period.

Countries which might be reluctant to abandon aviation protectionism altogether, might still be willing to do so in respect of an individual country — particularly if that other country were Britain, one of the chief agitators in the movement for open competition. From their point of view, they would be buying off British pressure. Meanwhile from the British perspective, it would open the prospect of cheaper air travel for Britain's own consumers. Moreover, it would increase the demand from businessmen throughout Europe for a total overhaul of the system. At worst it would mean some improvement while the Commission gets its lengthy legal action under way. Further advances are now overdue and this country should promote them by whatever means it can.

THE RATING GAME

The abolition of local rates in Scotland, confirmed as part of this year's legislative programme in the Queen's Speech, will provide an invaluable controlled experiment for the later reform of the rating system in England and Wales. It has been on the political agenda for at least ten years.

The report of the Layfield Committee published in 1976, went over the ground in exhaustive detail, and following the pledge to abolish the rates in the Conservatives' 1979 manifesto the ground was thoroughly retilled during Mrs Thatcher's first term. On the eve of the 1983 election rate reform was dropped in favour of abolition of the GLC, but the disagreement has forced it back on to the agenda in the present Parliament.

Scotland is going first because the rating revaluation north of the border focussed political discontent there most sharply. The Government concluded that anything was better than a system which imposed that kind of political penalty. Whether ministers will still think that way once the restricted tax base of the rates is replaced by a universal community charge remains to be seen.

Responses to the Government's green paper on rate reform published at the

beginning of this year have been almost uniformly hostile to the concept of a flat rate poll tax. Comments were due to be with the Department of the Environment by the end of last month, and so far as England and Wales are concerned the Environment Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, now has the task of pondering what changes, if any, he should make to the original proposals.

As a principle, greater accountability in local government has a great deal to commend it. It is partly the lack of it which has forced the Government, in another piece of legislation announced in the Queen's Speech, to impose an obligation on councils to put more of their services out to private tender. Although the burden of rates may be felt much more widely than simply by the householders who are legally liable — for instance by adult members of their families — a flat rate amount per head clearly spreads attention on the costs of local councils' decisions more widely. Minds are likely to be further concentrated by the proposed reduction in the proportion of rate bills covered by housing benefit.

Equally clearly, however, there are considerable difficulties in imposing a tax on people who did not pay one before. While those who are least well able to pay will

continue to be supported by the safety net of social security, the community charge is also likely to be more regressive than rates. For all their manifest failings, rates are more closely linked to ability to pay than a flat-rate charge. And the more one looks at the practical difficulties of collecting the tax, the greater they seem. For instance, how should the charge be levied on people who spend much of their time moving between different parts of the country?

All these questions Mr Ridley will have to weigh. In particular, he will need to consider how quickly the changeover between rates and the community charge should take place. In Scotland a fixed period of three years is proposed. In England and Wales the transitional period is much more open-ended. This is partly because the range of spending between different authorities is much larger than in Scotland.

If big differentials in the charge are politically acceptable, as the logic of the reform demands, then there is much to be said for following the Scottish pattern and compressing the changeover period as much as possible. Without a firm framework, some authorities will seize the opportunity to minimise any increase in accountability while maximising the political agony of reform.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avoiding Aids in absence of cure

From Dr E. G. Lever
Sir, I suggest that voluntary HTLV-3 mass screening would be an adequate method of combating Aids (leading article, November 11), or that compulsory screening would be efficacious, are both inaccurate in the light of our current knowledge.

HTLV-3, the virus known to cause Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), is unlike the viruses causing common infections in that it takes several months, or more probably years, between the infective event; then the development of a positive blood test indicating that the body has noticed the virus, and a further period between this event and the development of suppression of the infected individual's defence system and consequent development of opportunistic infection and unusual malignancies.

We do not know the latent periods with accuracy. We do not know the percentage of patients infected with HTLV-3 who will develop the positive antibody test. Nor do we know the percentage of patients who have a positive antibody test indicating that they have been in contact with the virus who will go on to develop the Aids syndrome.

BBC under fire

From Mr Tom U. Meyer
Sir, For six years, variously under Labour and Conservative Governments, I headed a Civil Service unit the main function of which was providing advice to ministers on the constitutional aspects of broadcasting, and before the dust has settled totally on the Tebbit-BBC battlefield, I wonder whether I may comment upon one aspect which seems not to have been given enough attention.

The BBC's (and IBA's) independence of Government in matters of day-to-day running derives not from legal provision or precedent, which would ultimately be matters of judicial interpretation, but, in common with most of the nation's democratic guarantees, from external perception and upon continuity of practice for their mandate. Isolated departures weaken a convention. Frequent ones can destroy it.

Virtually since the 1926 Crawford committee on broadcasting recommended the present constitutional pattern of the BBC, the convention has been perceived by successive governments as meaning that, whilst a departmental minister could properly intervene about a programme relating to his own departmental responsibility, government as such, as ministers have frequently reiterated, does not intervene in matters of programme content, since such intervention would be indistinguishable from the exercise by government of some control over the programmes themselves.

Neglected exam?

From the Headmaster of The King's School, Gloucester
Sir, The Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board (November 3) makes a timely plea for more effective modern-language teaching in the sixth form for those students taking sciences and other non-linguistic subjects at A level if Britain is to compete successfully in international trade.

English and Welsh sixth forms have now been presented with the opportunity to engage the curriculum with the provision of AS levels (half A levels), which are due to begin in 1987. This development could be far more important than the GCSE examinations which, in many ways, may prove to have a limiting effect on the number of subjects studied and will probably do little to alter the current pattern of success rates at GCE O level and CSE.

It will, for instance, go some way to help English sixth-formers to match the number of subjects studied by their counterparts in Germany, France, Japan, the USA and Scotland. One would hope that the prospective engineer might be encouraged to take two

Screening populations at the present time will not pick up those in the latent period before the antibody has developed and will raise anxieties in those who have the antibody present but have no clinical symptoms and may never develop the full Aids syndrome, and in those who will develop this lethal condition there is as yet no therapy to cure it.

There is no solution to this syndrome at present other than prevention. As with previous viral epidemics the answer is in the development of an effective vaccine and to this end most money should be channelled. Concentration of patients and research personnel and equipment should ideally be centralised, perhaps in a national hospital set in one of our closed hospitals like St. George's, Hyde Park Corner.

For the population at risk most attention should be devoted to ensuring that those who have transient sexual relationships of all kinds know of the dangers they may encounter and that information about Aids is on display and given with contraceptive measures whenever they are obtained. Yours faithfully, E. LEVER, King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, SE5.

Whether Mr Tebbit has honoured the constitutional convention or breached it, depends upon whether he is perceived (by BBC governors and by the public and Parliament) as speaking as a Cabinet minister or only as party chairman.

But, if you are clothed in the rich ermine of ministerial office, you can hardly expect to be seen as much dependent on human judgment as other sources, and bias must occur in the selection of which piece of news to put first, still more in what to include or what to omit, without any conscious intention of misrepresentation or propaganda.

This is part of the human condition, as Tebbit has most usefully reminded us. I remain, etc, DIANA SPEARMAN, 7 Lord North Street, SW1.

major A levels, say mathematics and physics, while studying chemistry and a modern language at the slightly lower level. However, the lack of prominence being given to AS levels suggests the project is doomed from its inception. While universities and polytechnics have given lip service to AS levels we have already heard admissions tutors, usually from the older and more prestigious universities, saying that they would prefer three straight A levels, particularly in the science subjects.

Secondly, the teaching profession, and particularly the unions, have become so immersed in GCSE, possibly because the proportion of sixth-form teachers is a relatively small part of the profession, that AS looks like being neglected or even ignored.

Headmasters and curriculum planners are unlikely to want to risk a considerable economic investment in new sixth-form courses in such a lukewarm climate, which may offer only doubtful benefits to the pupils for whom they are responsible. Yours faithfully, ALAN C. CHARTERS, Headmaster, The King's School, Gloucester.

The reality is that all advertising strives for efficiency in selling, helping to encourage market growth and thus keep down product costs. In the absence of TV and other advertising, both manufacturer and consumer (not to mention retailer) would suffer and the unit price would be likely to be higher. Yours faithfully, KENNETH MILES, Chairman, The Incorporated Society of British Advertisers Limited, 44 Herford Street, W1, November 4.

Racing handicaps

From Ms Bo Goldman
Sir, "These other horses couldn't beat (Dancing Brave) with a hammer in Europe," said Pat Eddery after his mount finished a gasping fourth in Santa Anita's Breeders' Cup. But an hour earlier, France's Last Tycoon didn't need a hammer, only four hooves to trounce his competition over the same race course, despite the tight turns, the bumping in the stretch, the clouds of living grass, the terrible airplane flight, the California heat, the exhausting European racing campaign, and all the other excuses trainer Guy Harwood trotted out in defence of "Europe's greatest since Mill Reef and Nijinsky".

How can you be English if you don't know how to lose gracefully? Sincerely, BO GOLDMAN, 1065 Greenfield Road, St Helena, CA 94574, USA.

Suez factor in defence plans

From Viscount Watkinson, CH
Sir, As a past Minister of Defence and the minister in charge of shipping in the Eden Government I must issue with Sir John Nott's article on our strategic defence capacity (November 6).

It was the lack of capacity to mount an amphibious operation quickly that did as much as anything to lose us the Suez war. So when in 1959 I became Minister of Defence I was determined that we would learn the military lessons of Suez and have a policy for our defence forces "which would speed up their reaction time and create a mobile military force with a poised capacity to operate from land or sea bases."

In this I found a strong ally in Lord Mountbatten as Chief of the Defence Staff who also remembered Suez.

In this way the assault ships, the small carriers and the Harrier aircraft that were the backbone of the Falklands operation came into being. The concept was tested in the highly successful Kuwait operation in 1961 when, at the request of the Ruler of Kuwait, we put a commando ashore at short notice ready for battle and under our own air cover.

The lesson to be learned from Suez and the Falklands is that given the right equipment and training the British have a particular skill in mounting amphibious operations possessed by no other nation. This is of great value to Nato for the Alliance is most at risk not in the centre but on its exposed flanks where a seaborne capacity is essential.

So I believe that Sir John's policy of 1981 was wrong. Mainland Europe is not where Britain's unique capacity for mobile operations is best deployed. We must make our contribution, but our allies are not unaware that, as the Falklands showed, Britain's very special contribution to the defence of the free world lies in that mobile seaborne role that grew out of the Suez failure and was tested and on the whole not found wanting in the Falklands. Yours sincerely, WATKINSON, Tyra House, Shore Road, Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex, November 6.

Falklands fishing

From Mr Alstair Horne
Sir, Sir John Nott's article points up two key ingredients that brought success in the Falklands, as opposed to disaster at Suez. One was the courage and single-mindedness of the Prime Minister; the second was that, in 1982, Britain had the support of the United States — coupled with the name of Caspar Weinberger, who (and not just over the Falklands) proved himself to be a true friend of this country.

The Falklands campaign was as Sir John also revealed, an extremely close-run thing. Now, in what to the simple citizen seems like an act of extraordinary and unnecessarily provocative folly, we are threatening to impose a fisheries protection zone around the islands. If this is carried through, we face alienating those countries in Latin America that ought to be our friends (and possibly, now, Spain as well). We can no longer be assured of unqualified US support over the Falklands, and in two years our very good friend, Caspar Weinberger, will almost certainly have gone.

Before it is too late, and irreparable damage is done, the Government should seriously reconsider. Yours faithfully, ALSTAIR HORNE, 21 St Petersburgh Place, W2, November 8.

Industry gibe

From Mr M. T. Heydemann
Sir, Earlier this year, the National Advisory Body for public sector higher education (NAB) planned several economies, including the deletion of the "O4 programme" — chemistry, physics and food science — from the Reading College of Technology. This proposal drew ire letters from numerous private and public sector research and industrial concerns for miles around.

The courses in this programme are seen as vital for the training, by part-time study, of their higher technicians in science. The protests, reinforced by the educational arguments and reference to the NAB's transgression of its own stated policy, were forwarded to the NAB by the college. But without avail.

Perhaps in response to outcries like this, the Government then announced increased funding for colleges. However, despite Reading College's renewed pleas, to date the NAB remains adamant that it will destroy these subject areas. Here we have firm, direct links between industry and education, strengthening both. Is HM Secretary of State for Education and Science aware of how his agent, the NAB, is breaking them? If so, how can he justify his failure to intervene? If not, will he come out of his ivory tower and walk the real world in which the rest of us live? Yours faithfully, M. T. HEYDEMAN (Governor, Reading College of Technology), 62 Northcourt Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, November 4.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 14 1851

The opening of a telegraph under the Channel joined London to other Continental capitals, which were already linked overland. The Times commented: "It is wonderful to reflect that while the great ships 'reel to and fro and stagger like drunken men', far, far beneath their heels, amid the wrecks of former days, the current of thought is evenly flowing on without disturbance..." The Duke of Wellington (1769-1852) was attending the Harbour Sessions in connection with his capacity as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH

Great interest had been excited by the announcement made in the columns of The Times of the 10th inst. that the Submarine Telegraph Company would be prepared to transmit communications between the towns of Dover and Calais on Thursday the 13th of November. A distance of some three miles from the South Foreland Lighthouse, where the cable had been temporarily placed, had to be laid with insulated wire and arrangements connected with the necessary conduct of the undertaking completed. The complete success of these projected arrangements was happily insured and manifest by the transmission of despatches and other intelligence during the course of yesterday. At about half past ten o'clock in the morning the last portion of the wire leading from the Foreland was brought close under the walls of the Castle at the summit of the cliff, and thence gently dropped into the garden attached to the temporary office of the company. The wire was then led into one of the upper rooms and connected with the telegraphic instruments. In addition to the well known apparatus of Messrs Cooke and Wheatstone, the more modern inventions of Messrs Brett and Henley had been enlisted for the occasion. After some little delay, consequent on the rapidity with which the arrangements were made, the wires were finally connected, and it became a moment of intense anxiety when signals were about to be passed. The instrument of Messrs Cooke and Wheatstone was set in motion, signals were interchanged with Calais, and the complete success of the undertaking was completely evinced. But very few communications had passed when a mounted messenger arrived with a despatch from the telegraph office at South Foreland Railway Company. It proved to be a communication containing the prices of the funds on the London Exchange, which were to be immediately sent by the submarine telegraph to Paris. The particulars of the message were of course kept secret, but it was gratifying to observe that it was duly forwarded. From this time despatches were sent to the office of the South-Eastern Railway Company and London and Paris. A message from London was sent to Paris and an answer received from Paris within one hour, and this time, it must be remembered, includes the distance of a mile traversed twice between the Dover offices, bringing the London message to the offices of the Submarine Telegraph and transmitting the reply to the office of the South-Eastern Railway. To this must be added the loss of time consequent on the message having to be sent from the Paris office to the Paris Bourse, and the time taken for the reply from the Bourse to the Paris office.

It was a singular coincidence that the day chosen for the opening of the submarine telegraph was the same as that on which his Grace the Duke of Wellington attended in person to close the Harbour sessions, and it was resolved by the promoters that his Grace on leaving Dover by the 2 o'clock train for London should be saluted by a gun fired by the transmission of a current from Calais. It was arranged with Calais that as the clock struck 2 a signal was immediately to be passed, and punctual to the moment, a loud report reverberated on the water, and shook the ground with some force. It was then ascertained that a 32-pounder loaded with ten pounds of powder had been fired by the current. The report had scarcely ceased ere it was taken up from the heights, the military, as usual, saluting the departure of the Duke with a round of artillery.

Guns were then fired successively on both coasts, Calais firing the gun at Dover, and Dover returning the compliment to Calais. After the transmission of the last business communication from Paris, arrangements were made for the future punctual performance of the service, and the directors and promoters, heartily congratulated by all who had the pleasure of being present, repaired to the Ship Hotel, to partake of what may perhaps be appropriately termed the inauguration dinner. It is hoped that the wires will soon be in connexion with the office in Dover, when communications will be held direct between London and Paris.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - On 12th November, at Queen Mary's at Roehampton, a son, Andrew, a brother for Malcolm, Douglas and Anna.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD
OLD MEMBERS

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KEBLE COLLEGE, OXFORD
OLD MEMBERS

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Worldwide low cost flights

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UP UP & AWAY
Mumbai, London, Paris, Dubai, Istanbul, Singapore, N. Delhi, Madras, Hong Kong, Osaka, Moscow, Beijing, Caracas, Buenos Aires & the Americas.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION
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Work on budgies may save species in danger
Pioneering work in protecting endangered species by scientists at London Zoo and at the Institute of Zoology...

LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND
How near we are to the cure... depends on you.
GIVE DIRECT TO CANCER RESEARCH

JOIN BLADON LINES THIS CHRISTMAS AND SAVE £££'S
LOOK AT THESE AMAZING OFFERS FOR 7 NIGHT HOLIDAYS
WINTER SPORTS

RESTAURANT GUIDE
Eat, drink and be Merry this Christmas!
For ideas on dining out at Christmas, why not refer to our special Christmas Edition of the Restaurant Guide...

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 1986

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1295.7 (-9.4) FT-SE 100 1644.6 (-9.9) Bargains 27780 (32691) USM (Datastream) 130.50 (-0.41) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4245 (-0.0015) W German mark 2.8647 (-0.0215) Trade-weighted 68.2 (-0.3)

Hoover bonus

British employees of Hoover, the US domestic appliance group, are offered a lifetime pension contributions holiday in a package to cut the surplus in the company's pension fund.

The surplus is estimated at £113 million. Hoover's British workforce has fallen from a peak at 16,000 to 5,500. The company has proposed winding up the existing scheme and replacing it with a new scheme with improved benefits.

The distribution will total £87 million, of which £42 million will go towards improved pensions. Hoover will take £27 million and the Inland Revenue £18 million.

Employees had objected to earlier proposals to split the cash equally between the company, employees and the Revenue. Hoover said yesterday it felt the package met all reasonable objections to the earlier proposals.

Profits rise

Laad Securities, the UK's largest property company, revealed a 7.2 per cent rise in interim pretax profits for the half year to September 30 1986 to £58.1 million. The interim dividend is 3.25p per share, a 12 per cent increase and earnings per share stood at 7.51p compared with 6.46p for the same period the previous year.

Tempus, page 29

Wellcome up

The pharmaceutical group, raised its pretax profits for the year to August 31 by 3 per cent to £125.5 million on turnover virtually unchanged at £1,005.4 million. A dividend of 1.32p has been declared.

Tempus, page 29

Royal record

Third quarter results at Royal Insurance showed a spectacular recovery in the United States and a good performance in Britain. Pretax profits were £105.7 million compared with £34.4 million for the previous third quarter.

City surprised, page 28

Profits up

Storehouse, the Habitat/Mothercare/BHS combine, announced its first interim results since the merger. Pretax profits for the 24 weeks to September 14 rose 20 per cent to £37 million. The dividend was increased 15 per cent to 2.3p.

Tempus, page 29

Bid talks

Glasgow Stockholders Trust has received an approach which may lead to an offer. A further announcement will be made "as soon as possible."

Table with 2 columns: Index, Value. Includes Wall Street, Traded Opts, Co News, USM Prices, Foreign Exch, etc.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Market, Value. Includes New York, Dow Jones, Tokyo, Nikkei Dow, Hong Kong, Hang Seng, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Commerzbank, Brussels, General, Paris CAC, Zurich, SKA, London closing prices.

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Rate, Value. Includes London, Bank Base, 3-month interbank, 3-month eligible bills, US, Prime Rate, Federal Funds, 3-month Treasury Bills, 30-year bonds.

CURRENCIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Value. Includes London, New York, E, DM, S, SwFr, FF, Yen, Index, ECU.

T&N scents victory with new £271m bid for AE group

Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of the engineering group Turner & Newall, last night made his long-awaited re-entry into the battle for control of AE group.

T&N is making a renewed and final offer of £271 million in cash and shares for the beleaguered automotive engineering group, which is on the receiving end of another bid from Mr Robert Maxwell's Hollis group.

Sir Francis also disclosed what may prove to be the trump card in the long-running fight for AE. In addition to the near-30 per cent holding which he holds, T&N now has the backing of unnamed parties who can deliver a further 14 per cent. With close on 44 per cent of AE shares under his belt, Sir Francis looks to be in a dominant position.

Terms of the new offer are 11 new T & N shares and £8 in cash for every 10 shares in AE. On the basis of last night's closing price of 174p for T & N shares, the offer values each AE share at 271p.

The Hollis offer was warmly welcomed by AE's chairman, Sir John Collyear. He said then that Mr Maxwell's intended strategy of combining Hollis as a high technology-based manufacturing group was entirely consistent with the aims of AE.

One of the more controversial aspects of the Hollis deal was that control of the combined AE-Hollis group would switch to Mr Maxwell's master company, Pergamon.

Sir Francis commented last night that Pergamon is not controlled in Britain but by Pergamon Holding Foundation, a trust based in Liechtenstein, the beneficiaries of which remain secret.

T & N confirmed its earlier forecast that profits for this year will be greater than those for 1985 and also repeated its promise that shareholders will receive a 50 per cent increase in total dividend this year.

AE shares closed last night at 268p, just below the level of T & N's final offer, while Hollis shares were unchanged at 76p.

On November 4, Hollis, the much smaller furniture and timber arm of Mr Maxwell's business empire, emerged as a white knight in an agreed bid for AE. The move came less than a week after the City Takeover Panel gave permission for a renewed offer from T&N after a month-long investigation into share deals during the first takeover battle. The investigation ended with the censure of AE's advisers, Cazenove and Hill Samuel.

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Virgin's quarter-mile queue

The Virgin chairman, Mr Richard Branson, left the stock market behind for a few minutes yesterday as his company headed for its well publicised entry to the Stock Market. The £250 million share flotation of the records and entertainment group closed oversubscribed after queues of investors stretching almost a quarter of a mile through the City with last-minute applications. Mr Branson met prospec-

Computer overload brings further disruption to SE

Dealings on the Stock Exchange were disrupted yet again yesterday when the market's SEAO share trading system was temporarily closed down amid its worst problems since it was launched on Big Bang day, October 27.

The system was shut down for about 30 minutes in early business as about 10 market-makers found it impossible to feed in secret signing on codes and quote their prices. There were further problems throughout the day as participants were unable to update prices and report trades. Several firms found themselves switched off from the system as their input lines to the SEAO computer failed.

A Stock Exchange spokesman said that the problems were again due to overloading of the Topic price information system. He said SEAO because people get very annoyed with you when you say that the screen price is not firm because you haven't been able to update it.

Firms affected by the problems, which have dogged SEAO since its launch at Big Bang, resorted to dealing through the floor of the Stock Exchange, although some continued to update prices and trades through back-up work-stations.

In reply to the adverse publicity that SEAO has attracted, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange, said in a letter to The Times on October 31 that the system had worked for more than 97 per cent of scheduled service time.

Plessey wins £75m Rapier radar order

Plessey has been awarded a contract worth more than £75 million to supply the surveillance and target acquisition radar for the British Aerospace Rapier 2000 air defence system ordered yesterday by the Ministry of Defence.

The announcement came as Sir John Clark, chairman and chief executive of Plessey, revealed a 24 per cent increase in pretax profits to £87.4 million for the six months to the end of September.

He also said Plessey was seeking approval from the French authorities for System X to be considered as the alternative digital exchange for the national telephone network.

The jump in Plessey's first-half profits was mainly due to a sharp improvement in the telecommunications business where operating profits improved from £23.8 million to £37.9 million, thanks to a £6 million turnaround at the US subsidiary Stromberg-Carlson and much higher deliveries of System X equipment to British Telecom.

The results, however, failed to lift shares which slipped 10p to 180p. Sales in the half year rose by £30.3 million to £687 million.

Clyde in £14m Berkeley bid

Clyde Petroleum is offering to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of Berkeley Exploration for £13.96 million in an agreed bid. This is well above Ranger Oil's cash offer of £11 million.

Clyde is offering 11 of its own shares for every 10 Berkeley shares. The share offer is worth approximately 57p a share, and there is a full cash alternative worth 51.7p.

The terms of the merger mean that there will be no dilution and Clyde's chairman, Mr Colin Phipps, said last night that Clyde was not paying a premium. He said that the merged company would have more than 60 million barrels of oil and gas reserves and 5 producing oilfields in the North Sea.

Bonn cuts back its spending targets

Herr Voss said the targeted reduction in federal borrowing for next year was a remarkable achievement, especially since the central government expects its tax income for 1987 to be DM23 billion below the original target.

Brierley lifts stake in Ocean to 23.6%

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, raided the stock market yesterday to lift his stake in his potential takeover victim Ocean Transport and Trading to 23.6 per cent.

Mr Brierley - who is bidding more than £300 million for the company - already holds a 10 per cent stake but raised it with a £41 million buying spree picking up nearly 16 million shares at around 260p a share.

A spokesman for IEP, the investment vehicle through which he is mounting the bid, said: "This proves there are enough shareholders around who think our terms are reasonable."

But Ocean Transport, which is bitterly resisting the takeover attempt, hit back in a letter to its own shareholders claiming Mr Brierley was trying to get the company on the cheap.

Mr Bill Menzies-Wilson, the chairman, said: "The bid values Ocean on a price/earnings ratio of only 13.3, a bid at such a low multiple is nowhere near adequate to secure control of a rapidly expanding company with excellent growth prospects."

IEP dismissed the claim by saying: "We have heard all this before."

Mr Brierley, who is keen to acquire Ocean Transport to integrate its transport operations with those of Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn in which he owns a controlling stake, recently lifted his offer for the company by £48 million to £306 million.

Under Takeover Panel rules he is free to carry on buying in the market up to the 29 per cent level.

Ocean Transport shares yesterday finished at 254p, up 4p.

One vote throws out London Wall plan

The Corporation of the City of London has decided by a hair's breadth to overturn the decision of its planning committee to allow MEPC, one of Britain's largest property companies to demolish Lee House on London Wall and replace it with 300,000 sq ft of new offices designed to accommodate financial corporations in the aftermath of Big Bang.

Mr Michael Cassidy, the chairman of the Corporation's planning committee, said last night: "We are most disappointed especially in view of the closeness of the decision."

The vote was 57 against and 56 in favour.

"The overwhelming need for the City to meet demand for such property within the Square Mile remains as urgent as ever. We must now consider the other applications for London Wall and judge the public response to this decision."

Last night, MEPC said it was reviewing the situation on whether to appeal or go ahead with a new application.

Six other applications are in train to redevelop buildings lining London Wall and which are now considered inadequate to cope with the demands of Big Bang. And the City is facing the threat of an alternative 10 million sq ft financial centre in the shape of Canary Wharf in London's Docklands planned by a foreign banking consortium.

Manufacturing output up 1.2%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Industrial production showed a healthy rise in the third quarter, helped by a September surge in output. There was a strong, 1.2 per cent rise in manufacturing output in September, although the figures may be erratic. They included a 21 per cent increase in car output in September, largely revised in October, according to Department of Trade and Industry figures yesterday.

In the latest three months, manufacturing output was up 1.3 per cent on the previous three months, but only 0.9 per cent up on the third quarter of last year because of a downturn in manufacturing output in the second half of last year and the early part of this year.

Industries enjoying a robust recovery in the July-September period included chemicals, up 3.2 per cent on the previous three months, and electrical and instrument engineering, up 3.9 per cent.

But output was down in metals, motor vehicles and parts in spite of the sharp September rise in car output, and man-made fibres. Food, drink and tobacco, clothing and footwear, and other manufacturing sectors showed increases in line with the overall rise in manufacturing output.

Industrial production as a whole, including energy output, was up 0.7 per cent in September, and by 1.5 per cent in the third quarter, compared with the previous quarter. Third-quarter North Sea oil output rose 6.3 per cent.

The industrial production figures, while more encouraging than for some time, underline that the output of consumer goods is not keeping up with high-street spending. Consumer goods output was up 1 per cent on a year earlier, while consumer spending rose 5 per cent. However, manufacturers may have run down stocks to accommodate extra spending.

The pound fell further yesterday but recovered some ground. It closed 0.3 lower against leading currencies at an average value of 68.2 after earlier falling to 68. Against the dollar it was 1/2 cent lower at \$1.4227.

£22m rights call by John Waddington

By Richard Lander

John Waddington, the packaging, games and business forms group, is raising £22.4 million through a rights issue, most of which will be used to finance expansion of its plastics and packaging interests on both sides of the Atlantic.

Waddington has already earmarked a home for £8 million of the one-for-four issue, which was announced alongside a 60 per cent increase in pretax profits.

A total of £4 million will be invested in plant and equipment for the recently-acquired Comet Products, an American company making oven-proof plastic trays, while a similar amount will be spent to expand the British cartons and plastics businesses.

Further investments are being made in Label Converters, another new Waddington company.

The rights shares, which are underwritten by Kleinwort Benson, are being issued at 180p. The existing shares fall 10p to 205p on news of the issue.

Figures for the 27 weeks to October 4, which included a jump in pretax profits from £3.2 million to £5.2 million, showed Waddington's increasing dependence on packaging, which now accounts for half of trading profits.

Defections may end in court fight

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The mass defection of staff from W I Carr, the stockbroker also known as Wico, appeared to be escalating yesterday as it looked likely that up to 80 people would be moving to Swiss Bank Corporation.

Most of the defections are happening in Wico's Far East operation where there has been long-standing discontent among staff. Apart from SBC, BSA and Zette Weld is also interested in attracting staff from Wico, although BZW is believed to be mainly interested in the London end of the operation. BZW has already recruited a team of five Japanese Euroconvertible stocks experts from Wico this month.

Mr Richard Davey, the financial director of Exco International, which owns Wico, said yesterday: "The defections were a blow, the company has already begun to repair the damage by recruiting new staff. He said some existing staff had given assurances that they would be staying with the company."

"The situation is in a state of flux. The eventual number of resignations have yet to be seen," he added.

Exco is actively considering taking legal action over the defections. Mr Davey said that Wico had a total staff of about 400 in London and the Far East and that although the defections were a blow, the company has already begun to repair the damage by recruiting new staff. He said some existing staff had given assurances that they would be staying with the company.

£18m hotel

Rush & Tompkins, the contractor and developer, is to build an £18 million hotel next to the Scottish exhibition and conference centre in Glasgow. The 300-bedroom hotel will be operated by Forum Hotels International.

Gas shares 'yield' 20%

By Martin Baker

Small investors in British Gas will have a strong financial incentive to hold their shares.

A combination of gas vouchers, worth a £10 discount against bills on 150 shares, and a forecast gross dividend of £5.63 to be paid in October, 1987, will provide a net return of 20.8 per cent on a minimum outlay of £75, says N M Rothschild, bankers to the privatization.

The calculation of the capital outlay assumes that the second tranche of payment will be £50.

"This high yield is to encourage people not to sell straight away, while the bonus share element is designed to hold them for three years," said Mr Michael Richardson, Rothschild's managing director of corporate finance.

Today is the last day to register priority. Customers who wish to do so should call British Gas on 0272 272 272.

Herr Voss said the targeted reduction in federal borrowing for next year was a remarkable achievement, especially since the central government expects its tax income for 1987 to be DM23 billion below the original target.

Advertisement for Fidelity PEPs. Text: 'PEPs. Listen before you leap.' Includes a cassette tape image and contact information for Fidelity Investment Services Limited. Bottom text: 'Fidelity MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY'.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Wall Street prices declined slightly on moderate volume in early trading yesterday. A mild gain in bond prices failed to spark an advance in stocks.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 4.22 to 1,889.48 at one stage when the transport indicator slipped 0.13 to 846.08.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index lost 0.52 at 246.12.

Table with columns for Nov 12, Nov 11, Nov 12, Nov 11, Nov 12, Nov 11. Lists various stocks and their price changes.

Support for autumn statement

By Rodney Lord Economics Editor

The Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, which is due to take evidence from the Chancellor next week, has received advice endorsing the decisions in the autumn statement.

In a memorandum to the committee, Mr Gavyn Davies, an adviser and chief economist with Goldman Sachs, the investment banker, says the decision to substitute public spending for tax cuts is a sensible one.

There is no economic case for fueling further consumer spending and imports, he says. Public spending is likely to create more jobs than tax cuts, though too much of the increase in spending plans represents public sector pay rather than help for the unemployed.

If the Chancellor keeps the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) at £7 billion next year, the fiscal stance will remain roughly neutral. That could leave scope for tax cuts worth about £1 billion.

But Mr Davies believes public spending is likely to exceed the revised targets, raising next year's PSBR to £9 billion or £10 billion. This would re-inforce the case for counter-inflation action.

With public spending planned to rise in real terms, the conflict between prudent borrowing levels and objectives for tax cuts will continue. The buoyancy of non-oil revenues will cease when the consumer boom ends, and in the years after 1987-88 a tax increase of £3 billion might be necessary to maintain the PSBR at £7 billion.

Unless pay deals slow down, a fall in the pound may be needed to maintain competitiveness and offset effects of a fall in oil exports.

Brokers' reports add fuel to Gulf and IC Gas bid dispute

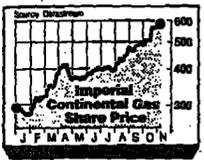
By John Bell City Editor

Is Imperial Continental Gas, the Calor Gas company fighting off a £750 million takeover bid, planning a £300 million acquisition of its own?

Mr Michael Rendle, the deputy chairman, says not. But IC Gas's bidder, Gulf Resources, controlled by the twins Mr David and Mr Frederick Barclay, is convinced otherwise.

Mr Rendle accused the Barclays of misleading shareholders after their formal offer document suggested that a deal is in the wind. But according to recent reports on IC Gas by four firms of stockbrokers, the idea has been discussed in some detail.

Laing & Cruckshank said: "Certainly the company has declared that it intends to make a major acquisition (£100 million to £300 million) in an energy or hydrocarbon-related business, but so far



There has been no sign of it.

The firm of WI Carr is more specific. On June 25 this year, the company's team of oil analysts wrote: "The strength of the balance sheet leaves the group well placed to expand by acquisition. Targets, ranging in value as high as £300 million, have been evaluated."

Also in June, the leading stockbroking firm of Scrimgeour Vickers reported: "IC Gas has said it intends to make a sizeable oil and non-oil acquisition. A range of £50 million to £300 million has been mentioned."

County Securities told its

clients at the end of last month: "The group is still looking for a major acquisition, of the order of £250 million, to relieve its position following the sale of CompAir last year."

IC Gas has, of course, made no such statement officially. But it is unlikely that researchers from four such reputable firms could have dreamt up the idea.

Mr Rendle says the message to analysts was that his group had the capability to mount a bid of the size mentioned by the analysts. But he stressed there was in fact nothing specific in mind. "I think that this is a side issue," he said yesterday.

IC Gas is now preparing its defence document in response to the £30p per share cash offer from Gulf. Meanwhile, the shares remain well above that level, suggesting that the market is expecting a counter-offer from elsewhere.

Merrett set for record profit

By Alison Eadie

Merrett Holdings, one of Lloyd's largest underwriting groups, expects record pre-tax profits of about £5.5 million this year, compared with £1.8 million last year. Half-year profits to the end of June were £5.03 million compared with £1.34 million in the previous first half.

The chairman, Mr Stephen Merrett, who has just been re-elected to the Council of Lloyd's, said the figures reflected the return to more acceptable profit commission

in the 1983 account on marine and aviation syndicates. Non-marine results were disappointing.

Mr Merrett also said non-marine syndicate 799 had exceeded its premium capacity in 1984 and 1985, but the overwriting was expected to be profitable. He added that the board believed the committee of Lloyd's had failed to take full account of the improvement in management systems and controls at Merrett, when it issued its direction restrict-

ing the premium income of syndicate 799 in 1987 to 85 per cent of gross capacity.

An appeal has been made against the committee's decision. If it is unsuccessful, syndicate 799's capacity next year will be the same as the 100 per cent capacity this year.

In 1987 the group expects an increase in the premium capacity of managed syndicates of about 18 per cent, but profit to shareholders is unlikely to rise much above 1986 levels.

Trade talks with China 'to become an annual event'

From Robert Grievess, Peking

Anglo-Chinese trade negotiations similar to the historic session held last month in Shanghai during the Queen's visit are expected to become annual events, Lord Young, Secretary of State for Employment, said in Peking yesterday.

"After discussions with officials from the China Council for the promotion of international trade, we have agreed to hold the next seminar in 1987 in Tianjin," Lord Young said.

Between January and September of this year, Chinese exports to Britain totalled more than £225 million, while British exports to China amounted to more than £396 million.

British Aerospace yesterday announced the signing of a \$750,000 (£526,000) contract with the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) for the assembly of advanced turbo-prop aircraft rudders at the Shenyang Aircraft Corporation in Liaoning province.

In addition, Mr John Glasscock, commercial director of British Aerospace, said the first of 10 BA-146s ordered by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) was delivered yesterday.

British industry, China's present five-year plan stresses development of its transport system.

"Trade between China and Britain is increasing all the time, but there is still room for improvement," Lord Young said.

Lord Young is meeting a 32-member British trade delegation on an eight-day tour of talks with Chinese officials here and at Tianjin ending on Monday.

The delegation includes representatives of Balfour Beatty, British Aerospace, British Shipbuilders, Davy McKee, Hawker Siddeley, Rolls-Royce and Short Brothers.

Lord Young called the visit "a very significant opportunity in the imported goods market and in transport for

Mitchell Somers edges ahead to £957,000

By Lawrence Lever

Mitchell Somers, the West Midlands engineering group, yesterday announced a marginal improvement in half year pre-tax profits, rising to £957,000 up £30,000 on the same period last year.

The company said results from its traditional engineering areas were "disappointing" although recent acquisitions produced "encouraging" performances.

The interim dividend of 1.75p a share is being maintained and the company is to appoint a finance director to strengthen its management team.

Turnover for the six months to September 27 was £15.5 million (£13.9 million) and earnings per share 3.9p (3.5p). Trading profit was up on last year, but interest charges claimed £76,000.

WELLCOME RESULTS 1986

Antiviral products make significant gains

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Table with columns for 1986 and 1985, and rows for Turnover, Research and development expenditure, Profit before taxation, Profit attributable to shareholders, Distributions to shareholders, Earnings per ordinary share, Shareholders' funds, Employees.

Reviewing the Group's past year, Mr A. J. Shepperd, Chairman of Wellcome plc, reports: "Our results have been adversely affected by the weakening of certain currencies, notably the US dollar, against sterling. In fact, in sterling terms, Group turnover was slightly ahead at £1,005m, compared with £1,004m for the previous year. Group profit before taxation was £125.3m - an increase of 3% - while the overall Group profit margin to turnover was 12.5% against the previous year's figure of 12.1%.

"Movements in exchange rates are estimated to have adversely affected the comparison between the two years by some £110m in respect of turnover and £20m in respect of profit before tax.

"However, if the 1985 figures are re-expressed at this year's exchange rates, turnover and profit before tax show increases of 12% and 23% respectively.

"The Group's tax charge this year is 51%, compared with 54% in the previous year. Changes in tax legislation being undertaken in the USA should lead to some reduction in tax charges and, while the effect will be minimal in 1987, there should be greater benefits in 1988.

Growth in overseas markets

"The growth in Group turnover was most marked in the USA, Continental Europe and Japan.

"The continued introduction of acyclovir particularly assisted growth in the latter two markets.

Borrowings reduced

"The issue of new shares earlier in the year raised £45.6m, enabling us to reduce our Group net borrowings at the year end to £46.1m. Net borrowings now represent 9% of shareholders' funds, compared with 16% for last year.

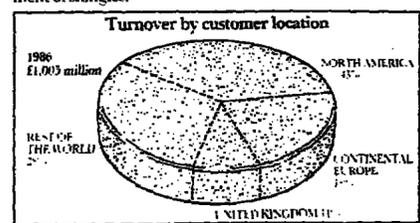
"Our total expenditure on research and development for the year was £132m, representing 13.2% of Group turnover, and reflecting the increased number of compounds moving from the research stage and thus requiring more expensive development resources.

"During the year we also saw our capital expenditure programme continue according to plan. Over the year we spent £88m, compared with £74m in the previous year.

Acyclovir becomes largest seller

"In the field of human healthcare, sales of acyclovir, the active ingredient of our antiviral products, have reached £103m, a 69% increase over the previous year's figure of £62m.

"Acyclovir has this year become our largest selling product in turnover terms, and we believe there is further sales growth to come, particularly in Japan. A further reason for optimism relates to the expected use of acyclovir in the treatment of shingles.



"Sales of our muscle-relaxing agent, atracurium, continued to increase, with a rise of 18% in USA sales, compared with the previous year. Total sales for the year were £32m.

"Other established products - particularly cotrimoxazole and allopurinol - have continued to sell well. However, in the face of generic competition, they now make less of a contribution to Group turnover and profits than was once the case.

"Our cough and cold products, ACTIFED and SUDAFED, retained their lead in the US markets against substantially more aggressive competition.

Coopers Animal Health

"Coopers Animal Health was formed in 1984 by a merger of the international animal health businesses of Wellcome and ICI. Today, all but three of the operating units are trading profitably.

"However, the problems of farmers in the world's major agricultural areas have continued, and the depression in agriculture has affected the demand for Coopers products.

"For the year, a pre-tax loss of £9.7m for Coopers is included in the Group's results, compared with £8.2m for last year.

Dividend and future prospects

"The directors of Wellcome plc are recommending a final dividend for the year of 1.32p per ordinary share. This is equivalent to the dividend of 1.86p per ordinary share, inclusive of tax credit, forecast in the prospectus.

"It has been an eventful year in which the Group has made considerable progress. We are all set to face the year ahead, which I view with continued optimism in the knowledge that the Group will draw on the great strength of its many employees throughout the world. I thank them for their efforts during the last year."

If you would like a copy of the Wellcome plc Annual Report for 1986 (available from 4 December), please write to The Public Relations Department, Wellcome plc, The Wellcome Building, PO Box 129, 185 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.



The location of Wellcome plc in February 1986, based on annual £230m, including some £45m of new capital.



COMPANY NEWS

Valor profits up 25%

By Alison Eadie

Valor, the home appliance group, made pre-tax profits for the half year to September 26 of £3.5 million, a rise of 25.7 per cent on turnover up 7.4 per cent at £62.4 million.

The company pointed out that the two first halves were not comparable because Valor had disposed of its motor components business, its direct kitchen sales and its South African offshoot, and had bought electrical appliance businesses.

The board expected a better result for the year end, with the help of a "seasonal" winter. It said it was looking forward to the privatization of British Gas and the opportunities it should offer to a wider range of its products in gas showrooms.

Order books are strong, the company said. It recommended a 12.5 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 1.53p, and expected a similar increase in the final.

● INFRARED ASSOCIATES: The company announces that its subsidiary, Infrared Systems, has acquired from Barrow Engineering Co. of Stamford, Connecticut, its Infrared Radiometer product line.

● LEDA INVESTMENT TRUST: Unaudited net asset value as at October 31 was 246.9p a share.

● JARDINE MATHESON HOLDINGS: JF Special Holdings, an investment arm of the group, said that talks are taking place which may lead to an offer being made for the company.

● NOLTON: The purchase consideration for Executive Services, Executive Services (London), and Executive Services (Midlands), is now determined at £60.814 based on the combined profit of £182,404 for the companies for the year to July 31. Additional consideration could fall due for each year ending July 31 1987, 1988 and 1989. After payment of the initial consideration of £593,419 net of expenses on July 29, the balance of £267,399 is to be satisfied by the issue of 575,052 ordinary shares, credited as fully paid. The shares will be placed at 47p with clients of Alexander, Laing & Cruckshank and Margents & Addenbrooke.

● NEW TOKYO INVESTMENT TRUST: The Bank of Scotland 1976 staff pension fund's holding has been reduced to 1.4 million ordinary shares (2m).

● RPH: Results for the half year to September 28. Figures in £000s. Turnover 238.2 (208.5). Pre-tax profit 31.5 (17.3). Tax 9.9 (5.4). Profit attributable 21.6 (11.9). Earnings per share 15.2p (8.4p).

● ROBERT FLEMING: The company has announced the issue of \$100 million undated primary capital floating rate notes through its subsidiary, Robert Fleming Netherlands BV, under the guarantee of Robert Fleming Holdings. The issue, led by Credit Suisse First Boston, has been placed through a small group of banks.

● ANGLICAN AMERICAN CO-OPERATIVE: Interim dividend 80 cents (same), payable January 6. Figures in Rand000 for half year to September 30. Turnover 615,000 (531,108), earnings before tax 236,089 (229,758), tax 130,500 (127,401), earnings per share 424 cents (412.1). The company says that, if the dollar/ Rand exchange rate remains at the current rate, lower earnings can be anticipated for the second half and for the year. But the final dividend of 160 cents will be maintained.

More company news page 29

● ENGLAND TRUST GROUP: Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has decided not to refer to the Monopolies Commission the proposed acquisition of the company by FK Banken.

● AGA: Figures in \$m for nine months to September 30. Sales 6,852 (7,192), operating income 698 (845), income before year end provisions and tax 1,040 (663). The company says that plant investment in 1986 will be higher than in 1985.

● THE SWINDON PRIVATE HOSPITAL: Figures in £000 for year to July 31. Turnover 1,626 (1,350), profit before tax 46 (51 loss), no tax (same), earnings per share 3.3p (3.6p loss). The company has increased its profit before interest in its second full year of trading, but the chairman says that it is not anticipating increases in occupancy to maintain this rate of growth.

● WOXPLEX: Rank Xerox pension fund's holding in the company is now 509,310 shares (4.9 per cent).

● SKP: The company has acquired the Mexican Bearing Company (Industria de Bases Invermentales SA). It allocated a 40 per cent stake and has now bought out its Mexican partner, Desc.

● WADE POTTERIES: Final dividend 2.2p, making 3.5p (3). Figures in £100 for year to July 31. Profit before tax 1,671 (1,658), tax 571 (599), earnings per share 10.36p (9.95). The chairman says profits in the current year are running well above those of last year. All group companies produced acceptable results with the exception of Wade (Ireland) where a loss of almost £300,000 was incurred because of a reduction in demand for electrical porcelain insulators and temporary production problems. These problems have now been resolved.

● RAUMA-REPOLA OY: The company has agreed to sell Stesele Mekoniska Verkstad (SMV), part of its forest machines division, to the Swedish company, Actor Sweden. A condition is that the buyer should agree to employ the plant's workforce of about 100.

● DENSTRON INTERNATIONAL: Fiske and Co has purchased 60,000 ordinary shares on behalf of the Water Authorities' Superannuation Fund, which now holds 910,000 ordinary shares (5.6 per cent).

● UNILEVER: The acquisition by the company of more than 99 per cent of the shares of Nasarden International was completed yesterday.

● HUSKY OIL ENERGY: The company says that talks are taking place on a possible takeover of Husky.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing base lending rates for various banks: ABN, Adams & Company, BCCI, Citibank Savings, Consolidated Bank, Co-operative Bank, C. Hoare & Co, Hong Kong & Shanghai, Lloyds Bank, Nat Westminster, Royal Bank of Scotland, 158, Citibank NA.

Trade talk
China to
an annual

Sp... de 150

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Vaux Group leaps by 33p on whispers of a bid brewing

By Michael Clark

Vaux Group, the North-east regional brewer, yesterday leapt 33p to 450p amid whispers that the long-awaited bid for the group may be just around the corner.

Speculation has been increased by a flurry of activity in shares of Pleasurama, the hotel and casino operator, which advanced 10p to 316p. This led to suggestions that it was flexing its financial muscle ahead of its next big deal.

It is known that Pleasurama is keen to make a large acquisition. This summer it held talks with Mount Charlotte Investments, the hotel operator, but the talks broke down because both sides apparently failed to agree on a price.

Pleasurama's name has been linked with Vaux before, and this meant Vaux's board was taking the threat seriously. Vaux has seen its share price hit a new peak of 550p.

There have even been suggestions that Vaux, which is one of Britain's most established brewers, may have considered a friendly merger with Kennedy Brookes, the fast growing Wheelers and Mario Franco restaurant chain. Word in the market last night was that a bid of 600p a share may be made. That would value Vaux at £231.6 million. The Vaux board was unavailable for comment.

There were fun and games for Grand Metropolitan, the Truman and Watney Mann brewer, where it is thought one predator may have built up a near 5 per cent stake. The group was forced to announce that the main report of 5 million shares by midday was a mistake. The correct figure was 5,000. However, business picked up and by the close 8.4 million shares had been

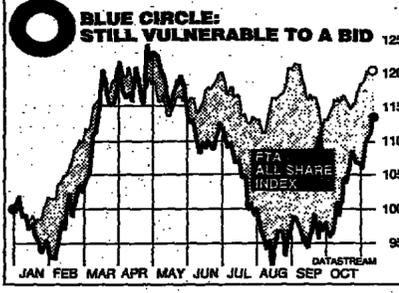
traded. The shares finished the day 13p higher at 44.61p.

The chill wind of higher interest rates continued to blow through the rest of the equity market and soon had investors on the retreat. Prices were marked sharply lower as unwavering slowed to a trickle. The FT 30-index dipped below the 100 level. The index, which had been 17.4 down at lunchtime, closed above its worst levels of the day 9.4 lower at 1295.7.

The broader based FT-SE 100 managed to halve earlier losses closing 9.9 down at 1644.6.

The weaker pound and renewed fears about inflation took their toll on Government securities where prices at the longer end of the market fell by 1.1. But the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) reported a change (Liffe) reported a record number of contracts in gilt. A total of 23,600 were made in longs.

One of the few gains among blue chips was scored by BTR, the industrial conglomerate. The shares advanced 6p to 297p as a total of 9 million shares were traded. Dealers claim this latest rally in the price is a sign of support by the market following the appointment of Mr John Cahill as chief executive.



Dealers who were rocked by the disappointing figure for this week from Commercial Union and General Accident were comforted by Royal Insurance. These revealed pretax profits of £193.1 million compared with £16.6 million last time. Royal responded with a rise of 25p to 824p. This enabled General Accident to rally 8p to 837p and Commercial Union 1p to 271p.

But sentiment in the stores was hit by a disappointing set of figures from Storehouse. Pretax profits at Storehouse climbed from £30.9 million to £37.4 million. The rise was below most analysts' expectations. The market expressed its disappointment by marking Storehouse shares 13p lower at 311p. Great Universal Stores 'A' fell 10p to £10.55. Dixons, 6p to 334p, Burton Group, 6p to 274p, while takeover favourite, Sears Holdings, the Selfridges and Sainsbury stores group, eased 3p to 229p.

But Ratners, the jeweller, firmed 2p to 243p ahead of a seminar with the powerful

million shares, or 6.3 per cent of the total equity. Dealers remain convinced that Blue Circle is still vulnerable to a bid.

A dull profits performance has hit the shares and earlier this summer saw them at a new low of 526p. But the appearance of Adelaide Steamship as a big buyer has repaired some of the damage. Adelaide may have chosen to remain tight-lipped, but the market hopes for a bid of more than 700p a share.

Mr Ron Brerley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, made a stock market swoop to lift his stake in Ocean Transport and Trading to 23.6 per cent. He paid 260p a share - the terms he is offering - and gathered more than 15 million shares to add to his original 10 per cent stake. Ocean hit back claiming Brerley, through his IEP investment arm, was trying to

Scottish institutions arranged by Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, later today. The market is hoping Mr Gerald Ratner, the chairman, will have some good news for the fund managers. The shares have been a firm market this year having come up from about the 11p level after a rights issue and revaluing for the group.

British Aerospace came in for profit taking after the Government announced it had placed a £1 billion order with the army weapons division of the group.

The contract is for the design, development and initial production of the ultra-modern Rapier 2000 air defence weapons system for delivery by the mid-1990s. The shares, which had anticipated news of the contract, opened at 498p before drifting to 488p and later rallying to 491p. The price closed 12p lower at 486p.

Blue Circle Industries lost some of its speculative froth as the share price dipped 11p to 640p in spite of confirmation that Adelaide Steamship Co has built a stake of 8.17

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

GEC and Plessey with antlers locked

Both GEC and Plessey are in unstable equilibrium but as each company is led by a dominant figure, each hostile to the other, no one would put his shirt on a constructive realignment of interests (in telecommunications and advanced computer) that might benefit both. Below the top attitudes are more realistic and accommodating but the decisions are those of Lord Weinstock and Sir John Clark.

Meanwhile, Plessey continues to burnish the image that helped to secure its independence in the hooded eyes of the Monopolies Commission while GEC still finds it hard to accept that external perceptions of what it is about really matter. The latest message from Plessey concentrates on its spread of activities and the wealth of opportunities in the international market where Plessey claims it can succeed by its own exertions. Ironically, only a later announcement of the £75 million Rapier success in Britain stopped more pennies falling from the share price.

Plessey is a tiddler among the sharks of the international telecommunications market. In France, where Sir John is hopeful that System X might be chosen as the alternative digital exchange, Plessey is in competition with Siemens and American Telephone and Telegraph and in need of a reciprocal arrangement which

British Telecom has no intention of making. Like it or not, System X, which probably accounted for as much as £10 million of the jump in pretax profits, will remain centre stage. The best bet appears to be Bulgaria, which is playing host to Sir John next week: the Bulgars might just come up with an order.

In the United States, where Plessey admits it made a major mistake in anticipating the cost of adapting System X for the American market, tactics have changed. Plessey reckons that Stromberg-Carlson's own products can compete in 85 per cent of the market and that there is no financial sense in bringing over System X. The subsidiary is now firmly profitable but it needs a leap of imagination to see Plessey emerging ahead of Siemens and Ericsson.

The obvious market remains the US where the company has at least learned from its mistakes. The purchase of a specialist company, such as Digital Switch which makes high specification transmission equipment, still looks the most obvious course of action and would fit in with Sir John's wish to be able to offer big companies a turnkey telecommunications package.

One thing is certain: the Plessey share price cannot be sustained by francophilia and vigorous public relations alone.

Agency brokers feel fallout

Suggestions that James Capel may be facing serious problems as an agency broker for equities appear to be exaggerated. Capel itself insists that, far from business dropping away to a trickle, its equity turnover is up since Big Bang. General market activity has been on the high side recently which has no doubt helped, but Capel claims that it has had several days of record business in the last two weeks.

But these are difficult times for agency brokers, whose business has almost certainly dropped since Big Bang. At this early stage, the agency broking arms of market-makers are suffering most. At one, the agency would not be taking its holding above the 4.9 per cent it held. Hutchison has been busy raising about \$2 billion in extra funds. This has led to speculation that it may decide to make an aggressive bid for Pearson. At these levels Pearson is capitalized at £1.16 billion.

The reasons for these pressures are not wholly obvious, but may simply be a manifestation of the old City tendency towards specialization. If an institution wants an agency service it probably feels it receives a better one from a broker specializing in agency business. That way it can spread its business more widely around the market, using the market-makers

direct to do its net trades when it does not want the extra services and commission charges of an agency.

In the gilt-edged market, events have taken a slightly different course. Plenty of business still appears to be coming the way of the broker-dealers, but some of their number, according to market-makers, have been acting like spivs. They took advantage of the early technological problems by regularly picking off market-makers who had been left behind by the system.

If turnover has been buoyant in equities, it has been positively booming in gilt-edged. Estimates of turnover range from about double to three times the turnover before Big Bang. The reason is largely the advent of the interdealer brokers, which are living up to all the Bank of England's expectations. Roughly half daily turnover appears to be channelled through the six IDBs as market-makers take advantage of the anonymity they provide to offset positions.

So far buoyant volumes has been making life easy for the IDBs, but few expect all six to last the course. Many market-makers have already settled into regular dealing relationships with two or three favoured IDBs, though not all market-makers favour the same IDBs.

ALPHA STOCKS

These prices are as at 6.45pm

1986 High Low Company	Price Bid Offer Chg	Volume traded '000	1986 High Low Company	Price Bid Offer Chg	Volume traded '000	
363 283 Allied-Lyons	314 319	-4	12.6	43	14.5	1,300
174 126 ASDA-MFI	157 161	-3	4.5	2.8	17.4	1,500
483 275 BTT	295 300	+7	8.8	3.3	20.6	9,000
491 381 BVA	408 408	-	18.4	3.9	12.2	3,900
472 448 Barclays	406 475	-7	28.1	6.0	6.8	157
840 680 Bass	738 743	-19	21.7	2.9	15.7	459
450 355 Bechtel	430 435	-8	17.1	3.9	18.0	744
728 595 Blue Circle	598 594	-9	30.0	4.7	8.1	1,000
383 293 BOC	334 337	-1	14.1	4.2	12.8	2,700
289 170 Boots	230 237	-8	10.1	4.4	15.1	3,400
600 426 Br Aerospace	458 458	-12	23.4	4.8	18.5	1,200
700 580 Br Telecom	586 585	-2	48.6	7.0	7.5	3,100
280 177 Br Telecom	186 200	-2	10.7	5.4	11.8	4,900
193 98 Brunel	181 184	-3	5.3	5.7	4.4	4,900
354 256 Burton	272 276	-6	8.8	2.5	18.9	1,300
388 277 Cable & Wireless	300 307	-8	8.8	2.2	16.8	1,700
196 158 Cadbury Schweppes	181 194	-6	7.7	4.3	21.4	2,000
288 259 Com Union	288 272	+1	17.4	3.4	3.0	3,000
704 409 Const Goldfields	685 702	+7	38.0	5.0	20.0	1,400
327*252 Courtwalks	311 314	-4	9.3	3.0	10.5	1,700
438 318 Dixons Grp	332 336	-6	4.3	1.3	23.0	2,700
650 408 Fisons	559 558	-14	8.4	1.5	24.7	1,500
954 701 Gen Accident	833 840	+6	34.3	4.1	21.0	682
226 158 GEC	180 184	+2	8.1	3.4	11.2	5,000
11*756* Gino	820 930	+5	20.0	2.2	18.3	1,400
482 325 Gosh Met	458 458	+8	13.5	2.9	16.5	4,000
11*721 GUS 'A'	10*10*	-	30.0	2.5	14.7	387
564 720 GRE	708 776	+8	42.5	5.5	22.4	787
385 285 GRN	248 252	-3	17.9	7.1	8.4	451
252 257 Gubeaux	252 257	-3	10.3	3.1	12.7	785
215*141 Hanson	205 206	-4*	5.7	2.8	18.3	1,000
523 408 Hawker Siddeley	414 420	-2	21.4	5.1	8.2	542
11*734 Imp Chem Ind	104 105	-9	46.6	4.5	12.0	755
507 512 Jager	507 512	-3	12.7	2.5	18.5	238
391 312 Ladbroke	398 378	-4	18.8	4.5	17.7	85
349 349 Land Securities	349 349	-2	14.0	4.1	32.9	3,800
237 246 Legal & Gen	237 246	-8	12.3	3.8	19.4	1,000
410 417 Lloyds	410 417	-8	25.0	6.0	6.9	47
248 245 Lonrho	248 245	+2	17.1	7.0	12.0	2,100
231 189 Marks & Spencer	194 187	+1	5.8	3.0	28.4	2,700
599 417 Midland	599 417	-1	7.2	4.0	15.5	8,000
650 426 Nat West	650 426	-1	38.5	6.5	21.7	282
500 507 P & O	500 507	-2	27.8	5.5	5.8	285
576 426 P & O Divi	518 528	-7	25.0	4.8	14.8	595
246 182 Plessey	178 182	-10	7.2	4.0	15.5	8,000
942 718 Prudential	835 840	-5	38.5	4.7	17.4	182
224 146 Royal Bank	170 174	-4	4.3	2.5	18.2	700
905 812 TSB Bank	805 812	-5	23.9	3.0	17.5	398
582*345 Renters	538 538	-	5.4	1.0	40.5	498
791 511 RTZ	538 538	-	31.0	6.5	9.2	57
825 825 Royal Ind	825 825	+8	36.5	4.7	68.0	2,600
426 344 Sainsbury (J)	412 416	-4	8.4	2.0	24.0	503
148*106 Sears	128 129*	-3	5.0	3.9	16.5	400
415 321 Selfridges	415 321	-2	17.1	4.7	17.4	182
370 553 Shell	350 355	-5	51.4	5.4	9.4	1,100
188 182 STC	188 182	-2	2.1	1.3	14.9	1,300
658 655 Sun Alliance	658 655	-	27.5	4.2	58.6	847
76 79 TSB PPF	76 79	-7	5.9	2.2	22.6	778
389 387 Thorn	389 387	-2	25.0	5.1	35.6	338
529 574 Thorn EM	485 482	-2	18.9	6.7	7.7	1,000
349 248 Trafalgar House	282 283	-4*	17.8	4.7	18.2	882
208 138 Trusthouse Forte	198 170	-4	60.1	3.0	18.6	280
324 13* Lloyds	324 13*	-3	20.2	4.4	12.8	200
238 216 Unid Telecom	238 240	-4	13.8	5.7	12.9	1,200

October jobless figures bring blurred light at end of tunnel

The October unemployment figures, published yesterday, appear to provide firm evidence of a sea change in the labour market. After seasonal adjustment, the jobless total fell by 25,000, after a 26,400 fall in September.

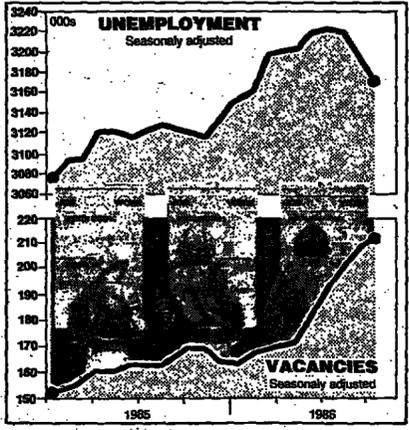
The fall over the latest three months, 55,600, is the biggest for any three-month period since autumn 1973. Job vacancies, even excluding the effects of the Community Programme, rose last month to their highest since the present series of statistics began in January 1980.

It should be unambiguously good news. But it is not. And there are several reasons why. The first is that unemployment remains at a very high level. The fall over the three months to November 1973, with which the latest drop is being compared, occurred when an earlier Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Anthony (now Lord) Barber, was creating the conditions for both a consumer spending boom and higher public expenditure.

There are similarities between the Barber boom then and the Lawson boom now. The difference is that unemployment was falling then from a level of well under 1 million. Now it is falling from a level comfortably above 3 million.

There are three factors at work in the unemployment figures. The first is that, after a pause in the second half of last year, the economy has started to pick up, as evidenced by the manufacturing output figures, showing rises of 0.7 per cent in the second quarter and 1.3 per cent in the third quarter.

There was a third quarter slowdown in the rate of job decline in manufacturing to 20,000, from 40,000 in the second quarter. Other indicators of recovery, notably in the service industries, have contributed to an increased "natural" buoyancy in the labour market.



The second important factor, and one that has been present for some time, is the impact of the Government's employment measures. Over the six months to October, the expansion of the employment measures, and notably the Community Programme, contributed a 5,000-a-month fall in unemployment.

This, coincidentally, almost matched the 5,400 average monthly fall in the seasonally adjusted jobless total.

But there is good reason to believe that this understates the impact of government schemes. The Department of Employment has become rather self-righteous about the Youth Training Scheme in recent months. It is no longer regarded as an employment measure, but as a training measure.

Thus, while figures are provided for the number on the Youth Training Scheme - 360,000 at the end of September compared with 330,000 at the end of August - no estimates are now provided for their impact on the unemployment count. But there clearly is an effect, which can be expected to increase with the impact of the two-year Youth Training Scheme, which started in April.

The Restart programme, lauded by the Secretary of State for Employment, Lord Young of Graffham, as one factor behind the September fall in the jobless total, is also having an effect. Restart, under which the long-term unemployed are counselled and directed into training, special measures or employment, became a national scheme in July and would have first affected the August unemployment statistics.

August was the month when the jobless total began to fall, and Restart must have played its part, although officials are unable to give any indication of the scale of its impact.

The scheme, like the new, tougher interviews for unemployed claimants which began at the end of last month but did not affect the October count, may have a once-for-all impact on the figures. A large proportion of the unemployed

fall into the category of discouraged workers, who have effectively dropped out of the labour market for lack of incentive.

The number of discouraged workers was estimated at 1.08 million in the 1985 Labour Force Survey. On the other hand, there were 760,000 people who were actively looking for jobs but were not eligible for benefit and so did not feature in the unemployment count.

The Restart programme can be expected to eat into the number of discouraged workers, shifting a proportion of them off the unemployment register.

This raises the third factor, changes in the figures themselves. The Unemployment Unit has claimed the 19 changes in the official rules affecting the statistics since the Government took office. The unit estimates that the changes have reduced the unemployment count by about 500,000.

Within the past month, three more changes have been announced. The tighter availability for work interviews could reduce the unemployment count by 95,000 over 12 months and by 220,000 in two years, the unit estimates.

The abolition of the right to reduced-rate benefits for those with insufficient National Insurance contributions will cut the total by 24,000 in a year and 30,000 over two years. And the extension of the period for which refusal to work means disqualification from benefit from six to 13 weeks could mean 2,000 a month off the count.

It may be that unemployment really is coming down as the economy improves, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Unfortunately, not enough people believe the figures.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

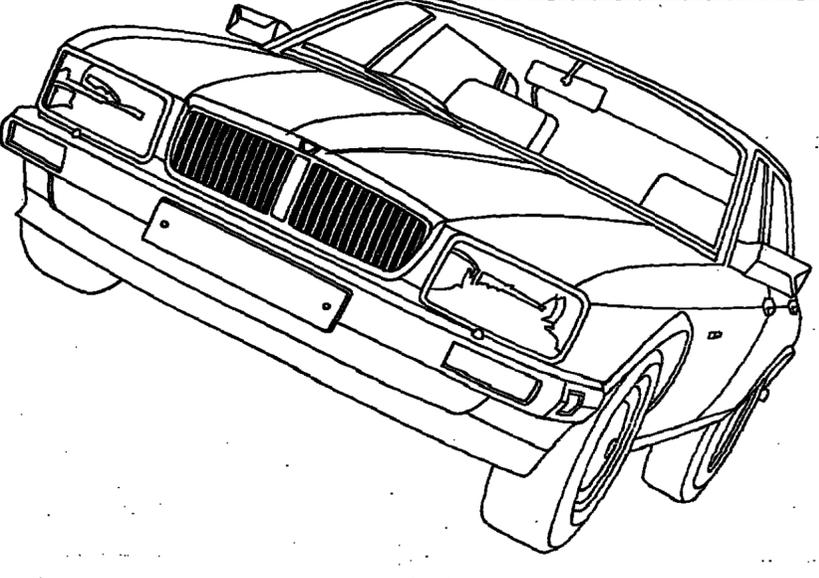
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Marlborough Tech (10p)	132 1/2		
Mecca Leisure (10p)	148 1/2		
Miller & Sanhouse (10p)	184		
Hewage Trans (7p)	72		
Chubb (15p)	101 3/4		
Fluanda (9p)	119		
Sandell Perkins (13p)	179		
Scott Mgt 100% #25	78 1/2		
FR Group (10p)	335 1/2		
Citygroup (10p)	96 1/2		
Great Southern (13p)	162		
Guinea Corp (10p)	211		
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Fluanda N/P	292
Norfolk Cap FIP	52 1/2
Redwood N/P	37 1/2
Siebe FIP	375

(Issue price in brackets).

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put
Alford Lyons (317)	300 30 40 48 8 11 15	330 12 22 30 29 30 32
BP (784)	600 100 117 12 2 12	680 62 62 100 11 11 15
Comd Gold (767)	550 185 182 4 10 10	600 115 137 146 6 17 25
Courtside (312)	300 57 88 8 2 1	320 37 50 8 2 1
Com Union (271)	280 23 30 38 6 12 15	300 5 12 18 35 38 42
Cable & Wire (302)	300 20 30 40 14 27 30	325 10 22 30 37 37
SEC (181)	180 27 30 38 24 5 8	190 12 20 28 9 13 18
Grand Met (462)	300 113 116 1 1 1	320 42 45 1 1 1
ICI (1068)	1000 142 158 1 1 13	1100 33 60 86 50 70 74
Land Sec (342)	300 43 52 60 11 6 8	330 21 30 38 9 13 18
Mertes & Spon (748)	280 2 15 36 2 9	290 2 15 36 2 9
Shell Trans (959)	850 115 125 135 4 18 25	900 78 100 118 16 30 42
Traylor House (283)	280 28 35 47 3 12 12	300 8 16 24 27 30 34
TSS (79)	100 5 8 11 14 6 7 7	100 5 8 11 14 6 7 7
Beecham (431)	350 75 84 1 1 3	420 45 57 1 1 3
Boots (232)	200 34 42 50 1 3 6	220 17 27 36 3 10 13
BT (226)	280 28 35 45 4 12	300 7 15 23 27 30 34
Bass (743)	750 25 40 60 25 40 50	800 10 20 30 30 30 30
Blue Circle (940)	600 90 73 85 10 20 27	650 11 18 27 30 33 37
De Beers (768)	800 145 180 4 20 20	900 105 135 150 13 30 30
Dixons (356)	300 42 54 1 1 4	330 20 34 52 10 15 17
GKN (250)	280 21 34 41 8 11 15	300 5 11 18 30 36 39
Glen (917)	900 42 87 112 22 42 50	950 17 60 85 48 67 77
Hanson (207)	180 48 51 1 1 1	220 4 8 15 15 18 20 24

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates close	Market rates November 13
N York	1.4200-1.4200
London	1.0000-1.0000
Paris	1.6667-1.6667
Frankfurt	2.3333-2.3333
Geneva	1.6667-1.6667
Basel	2.3333-2.3333
Zurich	2.3333-2.3333

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentine dollar	1.6170-1.6240
Australian dollar	2.0133-2.0247
Bahraini dir	0.3345-0.3398
Brazilian cruzeiro	185.90-197.50
Cypriot pound	4.7200-4.7300
Dutch guilder	1.6667-1.6667
East German mark	1.0000-1.0000
French franc	6.5596-6.5625
West German mark	2.3333-2.3333
Italian lira	1.9363-1.9363
Japanese yen	160.93-160.93
South African rand	3.1936-3.2003
Swiss franc	2.0000-2.0000
US dollar	1.0000-1.0000

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Series	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Three Month Sterling	98.77	98.77	98.77	98.77	98.77	98.77
Three Month Eurodollar	93.94	93.94	93.94	93.94	93.94	93.94
US Treasury Bond	97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00	97.00
Short Gold	95.18	95.18	95.18	95.18	95.18	95.18
Long Gold	107.20	107.20	107.20	107.20	107.20	107.20

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Series	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Clearing Bank 11	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00	164.00
France House 11	165.50	165.50	165.50	165.50	165.50	165.50
Discount Market Loans %	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Series	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
1 month 10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
3 month 10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
6 month 10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

Readicut profits doubled

By Cliff Feilman

Readicut International, the specialist textile group headed by Professor Roland Smith, has chalked up its best half-time performance since 1978.

Pretax profits for the six months to September have risen from £1.7 million to just over £3 million.

A big boost has come from supplying carpets to high street stores undergoing renovation.

Mr Alan Dodman, managing director, said yesterday: "Renovation in the high street has created a lot of extra business for us. All big stores are improving their facilities and this has pushed up our sales considerably."

Latest figures show group turnover up from £57 million to £63.6 million.

The group says improvement is due to its carpets, yarns and fibres, and industrial products activities. Firth Carpets, in particular, achieved what Readicut describes as an impressive profit level, maintaining its position as one of the most successful carpet companies in the United Kingdom.

The board says trading is high at most of its companies. Mr Dodman says that, in addition to expanding its present businesses, Readicut is keen to hit the acquisition trail.

"Ideally, we are looking at companies in the textile sector and preferably those based in the Yorkshire area where we operate."

Analysts are looking for full-year pretax profits this year of about £7 million compared with £5.6 million last year. The interim dividend is set up from 0.165p a share to 0.25p.

Record profit at Royal Insurance surprises City

By Alison Eadie

Royal Insurance, Britain's largest insurer, beat City expectations by a spectacular margin when it produced its highest quarterly profits. It made pretax profits of £105.7 million for the three months to September. This took the total for nine months to £193.1 million compared with £16.6 million for the previous nine months.

Third quarter profits from Commercial Union and General Accident this week disappointed the market, but Royal's results in America caused the surprise. The company made an underwriting profit there of \$8.7 million (£5.9 million), its first since 1978.

The combined underwriting profit of the US and Britain gave a worldwide underwriting profit of £2.2 million, the first quarterly underwriting profit since 1979.

Royal writes more commercial business in the US than other British insurers and has benefited from the hefty rate rises imposed in July 1984. Rate rises are tailing off - commercial multi-peril rates were up by 39 per cent in the third quarter compared with 50 per cent in the second and

58 per cent in the first - but there are only limited signs of capacity returning in the bread and butter business.

Royal's operating ratio in the US - claims and expenses to premiums to 98 per cent. In Britain, Royal made a marginal third-quarter underwriting profit on its motor business.

Royal believes the underlying trend of its American business is more encouraging than its results show. About 56 per cent of its exposure is in workers' compensation and personal lines.

Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, has raised its estimate for full-year profits by £45 million to £280 million, against £41.4 million in 1985. In 1987 Wood Mackenzie estimates profits of £425 million.

Royal expects to produce dividend growth of 15 per cent a year for the next five years. The shares are owned 29p benefited from the hefty rate rises imposed in July 1984. Rate rises are tailing off - commercial multi-peril rates were up by 39 per cent in the third quarter compared with 50 per cent in the second and

Iran to back Saudi line on raising oil prices

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Iran, the Opec member most consistent in its demands for a fixed price system, said yesterday that it would support Saudi Arabian moves to send oil prices back upwards by the end of this year.

The country's oil minister, Gholamreza Agazadeh, said that prices should be at \$18 a barrel by the end of the year and then move back up to \$28 in 18 months.

Iran has been a bitter opponent of previous Saudi tactics which defended market share but sent prices down and hit revenues. The two countries have had strained relations for several years because of Saudi support for the regime in Iran.

However, at this weekend's Opec committee meeting in Ecuador, it will support the new Saudi oil minister, Sheikh Hisban Nazer, in his efforts to arrive at a fixed price formula which Opec can adopt at its meeting in Geneva on December 11.

The Iranian oil minister said, as he left Tehran for Ecuador, that all 13 Opec members should undertake not to sell oil at less than \$18 a barrel under any circumstances.

He also revealed that Iran has had negotiations with Russia about the possibility of selling Iranian natural gas.

Eagle Star in £8m sale to Frogmore

Frogmore Estates, the property company, has bought £9.8 million of properties including two fully-let office blocks purchased from Eagle Star Properties for £8 million.

Both buildings, one in central London and the other in Middlesex, will be kept in Frogmore's investment portfolio producing £799,650 per annum next year.

The company is also improving the quality of its portfolio by buying the freehold of its 16-acre estate in Essex for £1.2 million from Whitehall Securities.

It recently paid £18 million for an investment portfolio of which £5.4 million of properties will be retained with the rest being sold.

Wiggins may buy mill

The Spanish company, Celulosa de Arturias (CEASA), produces about 130,000 tonnes of eucalyptus pulp a year, and Wiggins clearly has plans for expansion if the deal goes through. The "acquisition" price is thought to be about £40 million.

A takeover would strengthen Wiggins Teape's presence in the Iberian peninsula after its purchase of a 42 per cent stake in Soporel, the Portuguese eucalyptus pulp maker.

November 13, 1986. Total contracts 49488. Calls 51989. Puts 35458. FT-SE Index: Call: 1181. Put: 1634. *Underlying security prices.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

Federative Republic of Brazil

8 1/4% External Bonds Due December 1, 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of the Federative Republic of Brazil, that on December 1, 1986, \$1,320,000 principal amount of its 8 1/4% External Bonds will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory, annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of December 1, 1972. Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

Coupon Bonds to be redeemed in whole:

M 71	1230	3345	5236	5546	6388	7795	9122	11457	12738	12877	14401	15547	16435	18458	21140	23651	23763
307	1244	3346	5237	5547	6389	7796	9123	11458	12739	12878	14402	15548	16436	18459	21141	23652	23764
1111	1245	3347	5238	5548	6390	7797	9124	11459	12740	12879	14403	15549	16437	18460	21142	23653	23765
112	1250	3353	5242	5552	6400	7799	9125	11466	12755	12956	14544	15579	16494	18495	21143	23656	23776
315	1441	3364	5243	5550	6423	8238	9559	11469	12758	12958	14545	15582	16496	18496	21157	23662	23778
113	1443	3365	5252	5553	6425	8241	9560	11470	12761	12962	14546	15583	16497	18497	21158	23663	23779
316	1448	3369	5256	5555	6428	8244	9562	11472	12765	12965	14547	15584	16498	18498	21159	23664	23780
384	1465	3398	5258	5558	6441	8258	9582	11481	12769	12977	14550	15585	16499	18499	21162	23667	23783
385	1469	3399	5260	5560	6442	8259	9583	11482	12772	12980	14551	15586	16500	18500	21163	23668	23784
523	1472	3423	5269	5567	6443	8270	9584	11484	12780	12974	14588	16221	16221	18501	21167	23670	23785
961	1473	3425	5270	5572	6449	8272	9585	11485	12783	12975	14589	16222	16222	18502	21168	23671	23786
962	1478	3429	5272	5574	6450	8273	9586	11486	12786	12976	14590	16223	16223	18503	21169	23672	23787
963	1479	3430	5273	5575	6451	8274	9587	11487	12789	12977	14591	16224	16224	18504	21170	23673	23788
971	1510	4270	5378	5977	6484	8346	10398	12122	12796	13026	14596	16226	16226	18506	21176	23679	23794
975	1687	4282	5379	5980	6485	8347	10399	12123	12797	13027	14597	16227	16227	18507	21177	23680	23795
980	1689	4452	5380	5983	6502	8512	11013	12164	12794	13025	14599	16229	16229	18509	21181	23682	23797
985	1670	4453	5392	6000	6505	8514	11016	12169	12798	13222	14701	16310	16310	18542	21182	23683	23798
989	1671	4454	5393	6001	6506	8515	11017	12170	12799	13223	14702	16311	16311	18543	21183	23684	23799
993	1673	4470	5394	6010	6514	8733	11054	12198	12806	13242	14703	16313	16313	18545	21185	23686	23801
1054	2045	4486	5395	6114	6524	8734	11055	12199	12807	13617	14714	16315	16315	18545	21185	23686	23801
1059	2051	4489	5408	6115	6525	8735	11057	12212	12812	13618	14715	16316	16316	18546	21186	23687	23802
1060	2052	4490	5409	6116	6526	8736	11100	12314	12810	13620	14716	16322	16322	18546	21186	23687	23802
1091	2115	4492	5408	6123	7039	8740	11151	12316	12811	13621	14717	16322	16321	18546	21186	23687	23802
1073	2116	4493	5409	6124	7040	8741	11152	12318	12812	13622	14718	16323	16322	18547	21187	23688	23803
1074	2135	4470	5470	6153	7047	8748	11246	12318	12821	13623	14719	16327	16321	18547	21187	23688	23803
1077	2136	4471	5471	6154	7048	8749	11248	12323	12822	13634	14725	16328	16328	18548	21187	23688	23803
1078	2137	4472	5472	6155	7049	8750	11249	12325	12824	13637	14726	16329	16329	18548	21188	23689	23804
1079	2158	4468	5461	6158	7053	8748	11246	12327	12825	13637	14727	16329	16329	18548	21188	23689	23804
1083	2537	4850	5482	6180	7281	8782	11255	12338	12826	13781	14728	16371	16371	18549	21189	23693	23805
1114	2686	4863	5483	6181	7282	8783	11256	12339	12828	13782	14729	16372	16372	18549	21189	23693	23805
1117	2687	4864	5484	6182	7283	8784	11257	12341	12829	13783	14730	16373	16373	18549	21189	23693	23805
1119	2688	4865	5485	6183	7284	8785	11258	12344	12835	13784							

New-style rates 'will hit profits'

By Judith Hamley
Commercial
Property Correspondent

The Government's plan to reform the commercial rating system and reassess rateable values by 1990 could lead to a 5 per cent drop in operating profits for a typical chain of high street fashion stores, according to a report from Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks, the chartered surveyor.

The Government intends to revalue commercial property and to introduce a uniform rate in the pound for businesses. The impact of these measures would be to boost such a retailer's rates bill from £700,000 a year to £1 million, shaving 5 per cent off operating profit net of tax.

The last revaluation of commercial property was carried out more than a decade ago. The boom in consumer spending has led to an expansion in retail business and a strong demand for property. This in turn has resulted in rising retail rents which will be reflected in dramatic increases in rateable value, Debenham Tewson says.

The firm says its model portfolio of shops, based on a medium-sized fashion chain, shows companies with a broad network of high street stores at flourishing market towns and in central London will not emerge unscathed from the revaluation.

Minister urges offshore companies to battle for contracts abroad

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's offshore construction industry, which has been hit by a fall in orders as the low world oil price slowed the pace of development in the North Sea, was told yesterday to step up efforts to win orders in overseas markets.

Although Shell yesterday announced orders worth £4.5 million for its Tern and Eider oilfields, the industry in Scotland has been badly hit and has announced several hundred layoffs in the past six months.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Minister of State for Energy told an audience of offshore company executives yesterday. The present downturn in our domestic market is both a challenge and an opportunity, British suppliers of offshore equipment and services must not make it an excuse for neglecting the possibilities offered by overseas markets. New initiatives and effort are needed.

The minister said that if the industry is to outlive North Sea oil it must become an exporting force, providing proven technology, equipment and services for overseas oilfields.

He said: "The best immediate opportunity for the UK industry is Angola where our presence to date has been

minimal. Angola has low cost reserves interesting deep water potential, no real capability of its own and the impending loss of US export credit.

For technology specific to the North Sea, Canada holds major opportunities. Mobil's Hibernia development plan was approved a few months ago and there is a strong political will to bring the fiscal negotiations to a successful conclusion and get the project going.

"Currently we have a market research mission in Brazil which has seen major deep water discoveries. The Brazilians will be careful what they take from abroad and on what terms, but there should be openings for specialized products.

"The Indian Government has announced a new initiative to attract foreign oil companies into exploration on substantially improved terms."

The minister also said that strong trading links between Britain and China should be built on and that the agreement on technical co-operation signed between the United Kingdom and Russia could lead to opportunities in the 1990s when the Russian offshore industry starts

operating in the next five-year economic programme.

The minister was speaking at the launch of a new catalogue of company capabilities by the British Indigenous Technology Group (Brit) which was formed to increase Britain's share of the ownership of companies and in the technology of the industry.

Dr Dickson Mabon, Brit's chairman and a former Energy Secretary, said yesterday: "Currently, British indigenous companies get just 3 per cent of the global offshore market. There is a general agreement that Britain is now entering a critical stage and we in Brit are determined to build on success.

The order placed by Shell yesterday is for steel piles which will be sunk into the seabed to support the Tern and Eider production platforms 93 miles north east of the Shetlands.

The £2.5 million order for the Tern piling has gone to the McDermott yard at Ardesier, near Inverness and will provide 60 new jobs. The Eider contract, which is worth £2 million and will provide 50 new jobs has gone to Lewis Oilshore on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides.

COMPANY NEWS

● WESTPAC: Final dividend 14c (same), making 28c (27). Gross income for year to September 30, \$7.68 billion (\$6.21 billion).

● NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK: Final dividend 14.5c (14), making 29c (27.5). Gross income for year to September 30, \$5.36 billion (\$1.04 billion).

● HANOVER DRUCE: Interim dividend 1.2p (1.1). Figures for half year to August 31. Turnover 5,775 (3,820), pretax profit 768 (401), tax 276 (164), attributable 492 (237), earnings per share 9.5p (4.7p). The board believes it would be in the long-term interests of the company to increase the number of institutional investors, and arrange to have been made to place 3,250,000 convertible preference shares at the £1 par value.

● HAMPTON TRUST: Interim 0.5p (0.35), payable January 8. Figures for half year to September 30. Profit before tax and minority interest 637 (219), tax 212 (92), minority interest 22 (28), earnings per share 0.63p (0.27). Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of a modern freehold office building at 175, Preston Road, Brighton, for 25 years from 1975 on full repairing and insuring terms at an annual rent of £141,000, subject to review in July, 1990.

● CRYSTALATE HOLDINGS: The acquisition of a products division of TRW, with the exception of its Barbadian assets, has been completed. Exchange control consent is expected shortly.

● FROGMORE ESTATES: The company has purchased the freehold office buildings totalling 77,000 sq ft at Aldwych, London, and Hayes, Middlesex, from Eagle Star Properties for a total consideration of about £8.0 million. It has agreed to purchase a small development site in central Brighton from British Telecom for £600,000, and it has acquired the freehold of its 16 acres development at west Thurrock, Essex, from Whitehall Securities for £1.2 million.

● M J GLEESON CONTRACTORS: Final dividend 4.26p (3.87p), making 5.91p (5.37), payable January 28. Figures for year to June 30. Turnover 71,000 (61,000), pretax profit 5,659 (5,029), tax 2,152 (2,067), earnings per share 35.07p (29.62p). The company says it seems likely that the higher level of turnover achieved will be maintained from the group's residential estate developments.

● HIGH-POINT SERVICES GROUP: No final dividend (2.5p), making 1.75p (4). Results for year to May 31. Turnover 7,002,870 (5,360,761), pretax profit 471,716 (908,705), tax 136,359 (271,941), profit attributable 335,357 (636,764), earnings per share 8.08p (16.17). The board says it is confident that the group is well positioned to take advantage of greater opportunities within its market.

Market needs time to appreciate Storehouse

Obsessed as it is with short-term performance, the market cannot see beyond the end of its nose. Investors who take a longer-term view should not be of faint heart but start accumulating shares now.

As a concept, the grouping of Habitat, Mothercare and BHS into the big non-food retailing combine Storehouse has a lot of appeal. The potential strategic benefits could be enormous. It can achieve economies of scale by streamlining warehouse facilities, and centralizing its computer facilities. It has enormous bargaining power in obtaining sites in new shopping centres, and tremendous buying strength.

Not everyone is convinced, however, and despite the fact that the first six months' profits were much in line with expectations, they failed to please the market. Pretax profit rose by 20 per cent to £37 million on turnover up by 8 per cent to £433 million, excluding discontinued operations. In response, the shares were marked down 10p to 315p.

Part of the trouble is that it is not easy to see immediately the benefits of the merger to the bottom line. Profits from BHS rose a healthy 22 per cent to £18.5 million, but results from both Habitat and Mothercare were sluggish. Mothercare was flat at £13.5 million, while Habitat profits declined 10 per cent to £3.5 million. This was blamed on the recent move into a new central warehouse with capacity to service planned out-of-town stores, but where only 50 per cent of the space is being used now.

Before the merger, BHS shares stood on an average multiple for the non-food retailing sector (now about 15.5). Both Habitat and Mothercare have traditionally commanded premium ratings of nearer 20. With all the prospective benefits of the merger, Storehouse should also be standing at a premium instead of languishing around 15.

All the ingredients for a successful business seem to be there, but for the short term, the market's verdict appears to be that it is a case of "not proven", that status the defendant is neither innocent nor guilty. Despite its familiarity with the chairman, Sir Terence Conran, the market will need more time before re-rating Storehouse. It is, after all, a new group with only a six-month history.

quired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Sales of Zovirax, which treats herpes simplex, exceeded expectations and rose 70 per cent while growth in the US market was an impressive 50 per cent. Turnover as a percentage of the group total increased from 7 per cent to 12 per cent and has not lost momentum. Approval to treat shingles is imminent in Britain where there are an estimated million sufferers.

Land Securities

Land Securities, the United Kingdom's largest property company with a portfolio worth £2.3 billion, disappointed the market yesterday when it revealed interim pretax profits of £58.1 million, an increase of only 7.2 per cent on the same period last year.

With the property sector beset with bid fever, even the mighty Land Securities is not immune from such rumours. The company has stirred its stumps remarkably by acquiring a 2.9 million sq ft retail warehouse portfolio where rents are rising and yields are falling.

About 1.9 million sq ft of that is already income producing. It remains bullish about the City of London offices. Plans are afoot for 1 million sq ft of new offices in the City and West End which will boost profits in the next three to five years.

The company is moving in the right direction but it is paying in heavy interest costs on the substantial development programme and suffering a loss of income until developments come on stream. Borrowings at the half year to September 30 stood at £19.8 million compared with £9.3 million.

Gearing is modest despite the £300 million raised at favourable interest rates, standing at £530 million against assets of £2.5 billion and there is scope to increase borrowings which will be needed to sustain the development programme. But the company says it has enough in the kitty.

The interim dividend has been increased by 12 per cent to 3.25p per share.

Wellcome

Given Wellcome's philanthropic reputation, it is an appropriate twist of fate that the products most focused on at present are drugs which treat the social diseases herpes simplex and Aids (Ac-

APPOINTMENTS

Michael Peters Financial Communications: Miss Jill Satin becomes marketing director.

Clarkson Puckle Midlands: Mr Nigel Morris is made managing director.

SAS International Hotels: Mr Michael Duffy takes over as director of business development.

City Link Transport: Mr David Kenward and Mr Bob Beattie are appointed associate directors of City Link Transport Holdings. Mr Peter Phillips becomes managing director of City Link-London.

Knight Wendling: Mr T Eric Platt is made vice-president. Mr Martin Christopher becomes non-executive director.

Epson (UK): Mr Barrie Etherington joins as director of sales and marketing.

Royal Bank of Scotland: Mr Jim Rafferty joins the board of the Royal Bank Group Services.

Coverdale Organisation: Mr Robert Lintott is elected chief executive.

Citicorp Corporate Advisory Services: Mr Jean Caste becomes chairman and chief executive.

BT&D: Mr Paul O'Donnell



Mr Barrie Etherington

takes over as marketing director of BT&D Technologies. British Telecommunications: Dr Alan Rudge becomes director of research and technology.

Alpha Micro: Mr Thomas Anthony is elected senior president of sales and marketing.

EMI Records (UK): Mr David Munnis is made director of A&R and Mr Andrew Fryer will become director of popular music marketing from December 1.

American Express Europe: Mrs Jennifer Fryer takes over



Mr Jim Rafferty

as vice-president of public affairs and communications. Bunge & Co: Mr R Penderel is appointed chairman and Mr D Airey takes over as managing director.

George Wimpey: Mr Cliff Gill and Mr David Holland are made joint managing directors of Wimpey Homes Holdings. Mr P Whitehouse becomes president of George Wimpey, California.

Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages: Mr D R Williams becomes managing director; Mr R A Cliff, finance director; Mr G R Dale, employee

relations director, Mr J P Ginn, organization and recruiting director, Mr J S Morrison, dispensing engineering services director, Mr S A Sherrod, business systems director, Mr J M Sunderland, commercial director and Mr P N White, operations director.

C E Heath & Co: Mr David Graham will become a director, North America from December 1. Mr Jonathan Bloom will be made associate director, North America. Mr Geoffrey Dixon, Mr Philip Holdway-Davis and Mr Neal Thomas will become assistant directors, North America.

Carlton Communications: Mr Bob Phillips is made group managing director.

Microlife: Mr Simon Gann joins the board as finance director.

Ernst & Whinney: Mr Ivan Carruthers becomes a partner. Technical Component Industries: Mr Denis Robson and Mr Michael Wells are made partners.

Hambros Bank: Dr A W Mallmann is appointed a director of the international debt issues division.

William Collins: Mrs Sonia Lead is promoted to group finance director.

Royal Insurance Estimated Nine Months Results for 1986

	9 months to 30 Sept 1986 (unaudited) £m	9 months to 30 Sept 1985 (unaudited) £m	Year 1985 (audited) £m
General Premiums	2,305.4	2,074.0	2,779.5
Long-term Premiums	489.5	356.7	479.1
General Insurance:			
Underwriting Balance	-107.3	-278.8	-347.1
Allocated Investment Income	203.5	200.6	266.7
Result	96.2	-78.2	-80.4
Long-term Insurance Profit	28.9	18.1	25.3
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	64.2	69.7	87.8
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	11.8	7.0	8.7
Profit before Taxation	182.1	16.6	41.4
Taxation	32.2	4.1	12.3
Minority Interests	1.5	0.2	0.2
Net Profit	158.4	12.3	28.9
Earnings per share	67.5	5.2p	12.2p
Capital and Reserves	£2,278m	£1,714m	£1,905m

* There was a pre-tax profit of £193.1m compared with a pre-tax profit of £16.6m in the same period last year thus producing a £176.5m improvement. The third quarter pre-tax profit was £105.7m.

* The recovery was most marked in the United States with a pre-tax improvement of £116.3m. In the UK it was £35.1m and in Canada £27.7m.

* Worldwide general insurance profit of £96.2m (1985: £78.2m loss).

* The contribution to total earnings from Royal Life Holdings rose from £18.9m to £21.9m.

The full statement for the first nine months of 1986 (of which this is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance plc (01-283 4300).

LWT (Holdings) plc
(Parent Company of London Weekend Television Limited and Page & Moy (Holdings) Limited)



CHAIRMAN: CHRISTOPHER BLAND
Results for the year ended 27 July 1986:
Highlights from the Chairman's Statement

- * Pre-tax profits up by 26% to a new record of £12.8 million
- * Recommended increase in total dividend of 26%
- * Assets per share increased by 17%
- * Excellent start to the 1986/87 financial year

	1986 £000	1985 £000
Turnover	157,802	159,458
Group profit before exchequer levy	18,769	10,358
Exchequer levy	5,977	201
Group profit before exceptional item	12,792	10,157
Exceptional item	908	(1,881)
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	6,087	4,156
Group profit attributable to members of the company	7,141	3,798
Earnings per share	42.93p	23.01p
Dividends per share (net)	18.15p	14.40p
Assets per share	280.21p	239.50p

Copies of the 1986 Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary, LWT (Holdings) plc, South Bank Television Centre, London SE1 9LH.

Royal Insurance
Royal Insurance plc, Group Head Office, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR

LWT
(Holdings) plc

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing Unit Trust Information Service data, listing various investment funds, their managers, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities, listing company names, share prices, and other financial details.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts, listing trust names, assets, and performance.

COMMODITIES

Table of Commodities, listing various goods like oil, metals, and agricultural products with their prices.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of Financial Trusts, listing trust names and their financial performance.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken only at 3pm. Yield, charge and P/E are calculated on the middle price.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Nervous selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on Monday. Dealings end November 21. Contango day November 24. Settlement day December 1.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 3pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Ford (Marim)	Drapery, Stores	
2	Bremner	Drapery, Stores	
3	Scamfron	Electricals	
4	Chamberlain & Hill	Industrial A-D	
5	Lithwell	Industrial A-D	
6	Brathwaite Grp	Industrial E-K	
7	Geves	Industrial E-K	
8	Appledore	Industrial A-D	
9	Utd Scientific	Electricals	
10	Bagenidge Bkka	Building, Roads	
11	Underwoods	Drapery, Stores	
12	S & U Stores	Drapery, Stores	
13	Balfour	Industrial A-D	
14	Cartanlets	Foods	
15	Young (W)	Industrial S-Z	
16	Cherter Cons	Industrial A-D	
17	Lep	Industrial L-R	
18	Island Math	Industrial E-K	
19	Freemly Hotels	Hotels, Caterers	
20	Countryside	Building, Roads	
21	AC	Motor, Aircraft	
22	Jalana's Hides	Leases	
23	Hong Kong Land	Property	
24	SA Breweries	Breweries	
25	Burnwood Brew	Breweries	
26	King & Shanon	Banks, Discount	
27	Thames TV	Cinema, TV	
28	SNIA BPD	Building, Roads	
29	Terni	Building, Roads	
30	Shlar	Travels	
31	Spa Holidays	Leases	
32	Sunlight Serv	Industrial S-Z	
33	Edro	Industrial E-K	
34	Dom	Industrial A-D	
35	Res Bro	Banks, Discount	
36	BET Ord	Industrial A-D	
37	Devics & Newman	Industrial A-D	
38	Hewitt (J)	Industrial E-K	
39	Morgan Grenfell	Banks, Discount	
40	Jesups	Motor, Aircraft	
41	Glass	Industrial E-K	
42	Burne-Anderson	Industrial A-D	
43	Somporis	Foods	
44	Newbold & Burton	Shoes, Leather	
45	Times Newspapers Ltd	Daily Total	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Prize Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1986 High Low Stock Price Change

1986 High Low Stock Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

UNDATED

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDEX LINKED

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

BREWERIES

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

FINANCE AND LAND

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

FOODS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

CINEMAS AND TV

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

DRAPERY AND STORES

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

ELECTRICALS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	1986 High	1986 Low	1986 Price	1986 Change
...

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Hidden rays that menace the driver

The increasing use of electronics to control almost every function in today's "high tech" car has thrown up a major problem which for obvious reasons is not talked about outside the inner sanctums of the motor industry...

Bosch to modify some of their anti-lock components while the car makers themselves have developed wiring circuits on their cars to reduce susceptibility to emi.



Nissan Sunny: Now a zippy performer.

multi-plex system which uses a single "ring main" round the body to carry coded electrical signals...

Road test New Sunny

For years Japanese car design was dominated by the need to cater for American tastes. The results were ghastly with excess chrome-work, spongy suspension, garish plastic interiors and appalling handling.

appearance and mediocre performance and handling failed to attract the young. To close this gap Nissan has given the new Sunny a stylish wrap-around bumper incorporating an air dam at the front.

Vital statistics

Model: Nissan Sunny 5/door 1.6 SLX Price: £7,690 Engine: 1597cc Performance: 0-60 mph 11.5 seconds, maximum speed 108 mph.

IN BRIEF

Foreign cars scooped all the awards in the Caravan Club Towcar of the Year 1987 competition with the Renault 21 GTI (pictured above) the £7,875 1.7 litre GTI also carried off the class win for cars costing under £8,000.

the 2.8 Lancia Thema V6 automatic costing £15,170 The Automobile Association recently carried out free checks on lights and tyres for customers using a Black Country store. They found that nearly half the vehicles had at least one serious defect.

A close friend whose stewardship of cars I have learned to respect came for a ride in a new 5-door hatchback Nissan 1.6SLX. He got into the car as the evening light was fading. Within a few minutes I was conscious of him subjecting the dashboard and steering wheel to an unusually close scrutiny.

series to give more torque and lower revs. The result is very obvious on the road. It is now a zippy performer. The longer wheel base, wider track and independent suspension has improved the road holding and handling quite appreciably.

MERCEDES 500 SEC 1985 Linnar body kit, suspension & wheels. 8,000 miles only. Full service history. Unmistakable. Red with beige velour interior. £26,950. Tel: 0270 788260.

350 SL 1972. Valuable private number plate. Finished in classic black/black trim. Door box replaced 1,500 miles ago. New tyres. Long road test and full service history. £12,000. Tel: 0860 252885 or 0329 231550 (7)

280 TE 1983 A reg. 1 owner. Full service history. 26,000 miles only. Lapis blue. Immaculate. £12,485. Lex Brooklands. Tel: 0272 277355

280SL 1985, 'C' registered, 6,500 miles, 1 owner, as new. Offers over £20,000. Tel: 0923 21860 daytime

500SEC Full Leather Body Kit full specification. A reg. 30,000 miles. Full service history. £23,750. Tel: 0270 788260

LONDON ROAD GARAGE (ROMFORD) LTD Mercedes Benz main dealers. Underwriters for lets and low mileage Mercedes. Tel: 0246 442172

DUNN'S OF EXETER SPECIALIST IN MERCEDES AND VOLVO. Tel: 0323 777111

ARNETT OF BOURNEMOUTH. 1985 Rover SD1. 1984 Rover SD1. 1983 Rover SD1. Tel: 0202 674152 (W/E) 0202 570575 (Office)

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY SILVER SHADOW II 1977. Two tone green. Brown hide interior. Whitewall tyres. 66,000 miles, with some service history. £12,500. Tel: 0952 4593

SILVER SHADOW (1981) Gold metallic body/brown vinyl with immaculate condition. Full service history. £26,000. Tel: 0272 681451

SILVER SHADOW II 1979. Black with gold body metal, private plate. Full service history. 12 months MOT, new tyres, air conditioning. £16,750. Tel: 0427 788380

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY SAAB 1980 W reg. Silver Shadow. 1980 W reg. Silver Shadow. Tel: 0524 714711

ROLLS ROYCE & BENTLEY SAAB 1980 W reg. Silver Shadow. 1980 W reg. Silver Shadow. Tel: 0524 714711

WESTMID NEW VOLVO ESTATES For less than £8,000, for special leasing arrangements, please phone Ian Allen Motors of WIMBLEDON. Tel: 01-543 5282

ARON MARTIN ZAGARTS 2 new super cars for sale by private arrangement. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

GERALD CAPPS 1984 Cloud III. Must be one of the finest cars left in the county. Tel: 0823 42861

ASTON MARTIN ZAGARTS 2 new super cars for sale by private arrangement. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1986 Burgundy with black interior, many extras including air conditioning. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

MITSUBISHI STARION TURBO 1985 J reg. 7,500 miles. 15 months manufacturer's warranty. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

TOYOTA SUPRA 3.0 Manual. Registered 1985. Under 5,000 miles. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

Leasing & Contract Hire BACKED BY THE LARGEST LEASING COMPANY IN EUROPE. Tel: 021-553 3333

ARON MARTIN ZAGARTS 2 new super cars for sale by private arrangement. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

ARON MARTIN ZAGARTS 2 new super cars for sale by private arrangement. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

PONTIAC FIREBIRD Transam 1984 Latest model. 1700 cc. Previously owned by major retailer. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

MAZDA RX7 EGF's 2 of the latest models. 1 in silver, 2000 miles, £14,950. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

PEUGEOT 205 GTI 1986 C reg. metallic slate grey with contrasting black and grey interior. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

LANBOROUGH COUNTRYACH 1986. 1986. 1986. Tel: 0284 88285 or 01-730 8479

LOTUS ELITE 1.2 81 W. BRG with green leather trim, automatic, PAS, 1 owner, full service history. Tel: 0323 584304. T

PERFORMANCE CARS RS TURBO ESCORT White. April 1985. Tuned by Richard Longman. 170 BHP. Tel: 01-409 3500

PERFORMANCE CARS LOTUS ELITE 1.2 81 W. BRG with green leather trim, automatic, PAS, 1 owner, full service history. Tel: 0323 584304. T

PERFORMANCE CARS LOTUS ELITE 1.2 81 W. BRG with green leather trim, automatic, PAS, 1 owner, full service history. Tel: 0323 584304. T

AUTOTECH FOR RENAULT Sales & Used Models. Part Exchange Welcome. Tel: 0554 890436

GRAVELL'S FOR RENAULT ASK US TO QUOTE YOU FOR CONTRACT HIRE ON NEW RENAULTS. Tel: 0554 890436

RENAULT METROPOLES 01-876 2530 MONDAY - SATURDAY 9 - 5 pm.

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS for people on the move. Tel: 01-876 2530

EXCLUSIVE RENAULT 25 MONACO For Lease. Tel: 01-876 2530

RANGE ROVER VOGUE 84 J. Metallic blue. Air conditioning. Tel: 01-876 2530

FORD GRANADA SCORPIO 1986 Choice of 2. Balance of manufacturer's warranty. Tel: 01-876 2530

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A city prepares its valediction to modern chariots as they go the way of ancient Rome

Order of the Bath boot for the rally supercars

By David Duffield

Bath is about to play host to another piece of history. When, at 9.0am on Sunday, the first of the Group B cars in the Lombard RAC Rally set off to cover the 350 miles of 45 special stages dispersed over the 1,500 miles of the race distance, it will be the last time that they will compete in an international rally in the United Kingdom.

Unlike the Roman chariots which frequented the streets of Bath nearly 2,000 years ago, the Group B cars have not been superseded by progress but banned by FISA, the world governing body of motor sport, because they have become too powerful.

Race within race for world title

While many of the 160 machines taking part are more directly related to many cars in daily use (although specially prepared for the rigours of the four-day event and suitably decorated to promote their sponsor involvement), they are out-and-out specialists bearing only a passing resemblance to more mundane transport.

Reputations are at stake. Peugeot, with their four-wheel drive turbo-charged cars, have already won the world manufacturers' championship and Juhka Kankunen in the Peugeot 205 T16 leads the drivers' championship. He is hotly pursued by Markku Alen in a four-wheel drive turbo-charged Lancia Delta S4.

For Alen to have any chance of winning the championship he has to beat Kankunen by the time they return to Bath on Wednesday evening. It is virtually a race within a race conducted over closed tarmac private roads or the rough tracks of forestry land.

debut in last year's rally, driven by Tony Pond, and finished third behind two Lancias. This year 13 MG Metros are taking part. Although slightly down on power compared with the Peugeot 205 T16 and Lancia Delta S4s, they are said to be more at home in the forest stages. Can a British driver in a British car succeed?

It is 10 years since a British driver won the rally, Roger Clark in a Ford Escort triumphing in 1976. This year there will be four factory-backed Group B Ford RS 200s, one of them driven by Stig Blomqvist, who won in 1983.

The permutations are endless. For instance, who will win Group A, the category which will dominate the 1988 world scene? Kenneth Eriksson in the VW Golf GTI leads the drivers' championship in this division and will be hard to beat.

Enter, now, a dark horse. The sole entrant in the four-wheel drive turbo Mazda hatchback will be Ingvar Carlsson. This car, the class winner in the Finnish 1,000 Lakes Rally, could herald a new era.

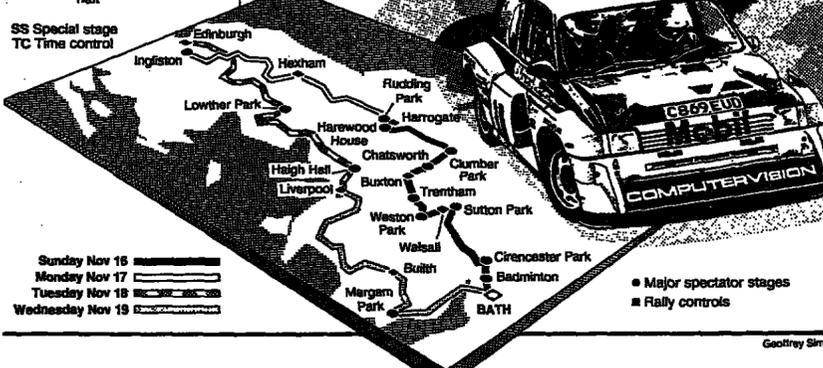
The car that could herald a new era

Lone rangers, but not in the running for top honours, are Roy Bradford in a Honda Civic CRX; Russell Morgan in a Mercedes 190; Mike Buckler in an Alfa Romeo Sud TI; and Susanne Kotimäsky in a Volvo 240 turbo. Sponsored by the Swedish Air Force, she will have to fly to beat Louise Aitken-Walker, who is driving a Nissan 240RS. She finished sixteenth in 1985.

Unusual in today's high-pressure field of sport, the RAC Rally is a conglomeration of full factory-sponsored entrants and hopeful but expert amateurs all doing battle over the same piece of ground. Less than half will finish and the winner will come from any one of the first 20 cars to leave Bath on Sunday. It will take 1,500 miles to decide which one.

LOMBARD RAC RALLY

Table with rally schedule for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, listing start times and locations.



Drivers who should steer their way to the front

TIMO SALONEN Finland, aged 35, Peugeot 205 T8 (No 1). Principal successes: 1985: Five times winner in world championship rallies and 1983 world champion, 1982: Rally of a 1,000 Lakes winner.

STIG BLOMQVIST Sweden, 40, Ford RS 200 (No 2). Principal successes: 1971 and 1983, 1st RAC Rally. Winner of 12 other world championship rallies since 1971.

MARKKU ALEN Finland, 35, Lancia Delta S4 (No 3). Principal successes: 1978 World rally champion, 1983: winner of Tour of Corsica and San Remo Rally, 1986: winner of San Remo Rally.



Pond: challenging again

MARK LOVELL British, 26, Ford RS 200 (No 12). Principal successes: 1985: RAC National Rally Champion, 1986: British Open Rally Champion.

RUSSELL BROOKES British, 41, Opel Manta 400 (No 15). Principal successes: 1985: British Open Champion, 5th, RAC Rally. Consistently finished in the top 10 placings in the RAC Rally for 10 years.



Aitken-Walker: consistent

LOUISE AITKEN-WALKER British, 34, Nissan 240RS. Her leading woman rally driver, will make her fifth appearance in the Lombard RAC rally driving a Nissan 240RS.

MISS AITKEN, partnered by Ellen Morgan, has consistently finished in the top 10 placings in Open championship rounds this season, despite their normally aspirated vehicle being unable to match the power or traction of the four-wheel drive specialist Group B cars.

Safe spots for crowds to watch

Last year in the Dyffant Forest the uncontrollable volume of spectators caused the RAC officials to cancel a special stage (David Duffield writes).

A month ago in the San Remo Rally the organizers cancelled a stage for the same reason. In Portugal earlier this year spectators were killed and injured when a rally car went off the road.

In the interests of safety, the RAC advise spectators to watch at specific 'starred' stages where there are good safe vantage points and car parking facilities.

Vehicles with potential to take chequered flag

- Six of the cars capable of winning their group. GROUP A: Vauxhall Astra GTE: 1798cc engine, 4 cylinders, 8 valves, 164 bhp. Drivers: Andrew Wood, Peritt Aitken. GROUP B: MG Metro 6R4: 2991cc, 6 cylinders, 24 valves, 380 bhp. Drivers: Tony Pond, Malcolm Wilson, David Llewellyn.

Fifth drive for leading lady

Louise Aitken-Walker, Britain's leading woman rally driver, will make her fifth appearance in the Lombard RAC rally driving a Nissan 240RS.

Norman makes a slow start to his Open defence

Melbourne (Reuters) - The British Open champion, Greg Norman, made a less than impressive start to his Australian Open title defence yesterday with a volatile round of two under-par 70, four strokes off the lead.

A fellow-Australian Ian Baker-Finch, seeking his first victory of the year, and the New Zealander, Greg Turner, winner of this year's Singapore and Scandinavian Opens, drew first blood with rounds of 66.

On a day of low scores, they were only one shot away from the course record, set in 1981 by Norman.

Faldo and Love tied in windswept lead

Hawaii (AP) - Nick Faldo, who has been British PGA champion three times, had a wind-whipped four-under-par 68 to share the first-round lead in the Isuzu Kapalua international golf tournament.

David Love III, a rookie, scored eagles on consecutive holes to tie with Faldo, who never went over par in winds he estimated at "50 to 60 miles per hour". It was even tougher for the early starters.

Both leaders played in the afternoon half of the field when conditions - while still difficult - were not so severe as the rain and gale-force winds which lashed the early start.

Brother leads brother

Gotemba, Japan (Reuters) - Naomichi Ozaki, of Japan, the youngest of three brothers, shot a six-under-par 66 to lead by a stroke after the first round of a \$50,000 (about £30,000) tournament at the Taiheiyu Club course yesterday.

conveniently overhauled the physical and mental aspects of his game, showed great determination to get four birdies and an eagle yesterday.

"I've been stagnant the last year. I kept saying negative things to myself," he said. "But I'm starting to see there's no need to knock yourself. There are a lot of other people who will help you do that."

Playing off the 10th tee first, he quietly birdied the 14th and 15th, but a birdie-into-the-hole on a birdie-eagle-birdie spell from the third to the fifth holes.

Safe spots for crowds to watch

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In the interests of safety, the RAC advise spectators to watch at specific 'starred' stages where there are good safe vantage points and car parking facilities.

Large advertisement for 'Restaurant Guide' featuring various dining establishments like Shikara, Bombay Palace, and others, with contact information and descriptions.

Broadhead
for Hennessy
after sound...

Yorkshire rumblings herald a gloomy future for Bairstow

By Peter Ball

After the storms over Taunton last weekend, cricket's turbulence returns to its usual home today, with at least minor squalls expected at Headingley, where the Yorkshire Committee meet to decide on next season's captain. They will also discuss their response to the Palmer Report, but the captaincy is likely to command the greater attention. In the garrulous traditions of Yorkshire cricket, it has been the game's worst-kept secret in recent weeks that David Bairstow, the current incumbent, is likely to be replaced after three troubled seasons on the recommendation of the cricket committee. His vice-captain, Phil Carrick, is the odds-on favourite to replace him in the absence of any outstanding candidates. Boycott no longer being a member of the staff.

TCCB meet over county structure

By Ivo Tennant

The Test and County Cricket Board are to hold a rare consultative meeting on Tuesday to consider recommendations to change the structure of county cricket. Any decisions, which may include implementing four-day championship matches and going away with one of the two knock-out competitions, will be deferred until the TCCB's winter meeting on December 11. The meeting on Tuesday, chaired by Raman Subba Row, will concentrate on the Palmer Report, published earlier this year, and in particular its recommendation that four-day matches be introduced in the county championship. The need for an improvement in coaching at school and junior levels will also be discussed. The Palmer committee, chaired by C H Palmer, former president of MCC and chairman of the TCCB, was set up by the TCCB to look into the standards of English cricket after the West Indies' triumph in England in 1984. Among its suggestions was that each county play 16 three-day matches and eight over four days. A decision will be taken on December 11, as to whether the county championship for 1988 will be the format for the 1988 county championship. At present each county plays 24 three day matches.

MCC back school for young stars

By Marcus Williams

On the eve of an Ashes series in Australia, in which England's strength in international cricket is likely to receive another stern examination, it was good news that a scheme to develop future English Test players was launched at Lord's yesterday. A School of Merit, organized by the MCC and sponsored by Thorn Lighting, who have made an initial commitment to the scheme of four years, will provide regular coaching during the winter for 30 youngsters of outstanding potential, aged from 12 to 15. It is hoped that they will graduate to county and ultimately national level. Tuition, in the indoor school at Lord's, will be under the watchful eye of Don Wilson,

the cricket committee, and for all his own indomitable qualities, his leadership proved neither inspiring for the younger players nor tactically acute. His perceptible loss of form last summer, with injuries and the pressure of captaincy taking a visible toll, has made his removal almost a foregone conclusion.

Carrick, aged 34, is the most likely replacement. He is recognized as one of the shrewdest thinkers on the same among the senior members of the Yorkshire dressing room and on his few opportunities captaining the side in Bairstow's absence, there were signs that imagination and thought was being brought to the task even if it was not always successful.

Although the genial Jim Love has been floated as a possible outsider, the only other serious contender is Neil Hartley. He was given the job briefly as an inexperienced player by Illingworth, but

found the politics inside and outside the dressing room too much for him.

At the age of 30, Hartley is older and wiser now, and both by example and strength of character, he would probably prove a more dynamic leader than Carrick, while he is no fool tactically. The days of Ronnie Burnett are over now, however, and Hartley's inability to establish his place beyond doubt in a side well-served by batsmen has told against him.

Lack of form would appear to argue also against the avuncular Carrick, who took only 36 first-class wickets at just over 43 runs apiece last season, but there is no slow left-arm spinner pressing a conclusive case for inclusion at the moment, and he is known to have Close's support. That should swing the day, with the possibility of Martyn Moxon taking over the vice-captaincy with an eye to the future.

Wessels in Australian rebel team

Johannesburg (Reuters) —

Wessels, the Australian rebel cricket team for their second tour of South Africa.

Dr Ali Bacher, the South African cricket chief, told a press conference yesterday that the South African-born former Australian Test opening batsman would be available to the tourists from the beginning of next month. He said the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) had agreed to release Wessels from his contract with them. "We are very appreciative of the co-operation of the ACB," said Dr Bacher. The announcement ended weeks of speculation about whether Wessels, who emigrated to Australia some years ago, would be in the tour and which side he would represent.

He returned to South Africa earlier this year after announcing his retirement from Test cricket and was appointed captain of Eastern Province.

The presence of Wessels will strengthen the tourists' batting line-up during their weak period during the first tour during which they lost both the limited overs and four-day series to the Springboks.

"I was delighted to get a man of Wessels' stature back into the system," Dr Bacher said. Some of the tourists are known to have opposed the inclusion of Wessels because of his refusal to play for the national side. Players who undertook that tour were banned by the ACB for three years from international and interstate cricket.

The houses of two Cape Town cricket officials were attacked this week and "Aussies go home" slogans daubed on walls by a mysterious group opposed to the tour. One was also roused on the Newlands cricket pitch in Cape Town.

The Australians, most of whom have not played competitively since the first tour ended in February, were stretched in their opening fixture, a one-day match against Southern Cape in Oudshoorn today.

Bricks and stones were hurled on Wednesday night at the luxury seaside hotel where the tourists are staying in Cape Town, police said.

A group calling itself the Commando has claimed responsibility for earlier attacks in protest at the tour. But a South African police spokesman said the "person" heading the organization "had so far claimed responsibility for the incident on Wednesday night."

The Australian team manager, Bruce Francis, said: "It happened on my side of the building... I thought it was just a bit of mischief or something and didn't even bother to open the curtains." The tourists have been condemned for breaking the international sporting boycott of South Africa, imposed because of the Republic's apartheid policies.

Help for skiers
Richard Tracey, the Sports Minister, will officially open the new £50,000 alpine ski centre in Capstone Farm country park, Chatham, Kent at noon on Friday, November 21. The 200m x 20m artificial slope is one of the largest in the south of England and will be able to accommodate up to 1,600 skiers per hour.



French flair: Noah displays his athletic ability and grace in stretching wide for a backhand

Find the heart of London for therein lies the soul

In the dimly-lit corridor that leads from the dressing rooms to the somewhat primitive showers at the Wimbledon Arena, he looked like some African chief, draped in brown and gold towels, his spiky hair topped off a dramatic silhouette. "Can you believe it? I won a match in London!" Yannick Noah exclaimed upon spying a friend in the semi-darkness.

The Frenchman's delight was understandable. Ever since he emerged from the Camerouns to give France the superstar that tennis-crazy nation had craved, Noah has hurred his superb physique around the courts of the world with increasing levels of success and acclaim everywhere — except in England.

For more reasons than one could dream of, he has only played at Wimbledon three times in seven years and has only made it to the Benson and Hedges championships twice before this year.

Injured alone do not quite tell the story. Like the man himself, the reasons are more complex. First, there was an inherent mistrust of Wimbledon's grass. Then there was the city itself.

"I have to feel well in a place before I can play my best tennis and, until now, I have never felt at ease in London. I know it is a great place but I still haven't found it here."

The observation is revealing. Life for Noah is an emotional odyssey based on an implicit understanding that tears often mingle with laughter and that you are no less of a man for shedding tears. They were tears when he hugged his father on the centre court at Stade Roland Garros in 1983, having just become the first Frenchman in 37 years to win the French Open.

Hendry, already hailed as a future world champion, made a fine impression at Sheffield last season when he first attempted at the world title ended in a 10-8 defeat by Willie Thorne, who was first round. More recently, Hendry's talent delighted spectators at Reading where he lost 5-4 to Jimmy White, the ultimate winner, in the quarter-finals of the Rothmans Grand Prix tournament.

Higgins, the 1983 UK champion when the event was sponsored by Coral, has not been at his best recently, but he has an impressive record at the Guild Hall, having failed only once to go beyond the quarter-finals since the championship was started in 1977. Steve Davis, who won the UK title last year after beating Thorne 16-14 in the final, begins his defence

restriction on his free spirit and forced him to move into the anonymous limbo of New York. Although marriage and fatherhood has matured him, three years ago he was still not so far removed from the wide-eyed little boy of eleven we had found one night at a tennis club in Yaounde when Arthur Ashe and Charlie Pasarell passed through on an exhibition tour in 1971.

The lights on the court were yellow and large, furry, insects had to be flicked off the baseline before he could serve. But when Ashe handed him his racket, the skinny little child served up a huge ace and, after a few more shots we had not expected to find in the middle of Africa, Ashe was telling Yannick's father to send him to France.

"I had heard Arthur's name but I didn't know who he was"

he recalled. "I couldn't speak English and I didn't really understand what was happening. But when he spoke to my father and told him he thought I was good, I felt so proud. It gave me great inspiration."

Within a decade, that sprig of talent had blossomed into a sporting entertainer of colossal proportions. "As far as pure athletic ability is concerned, Yannick is in a league of his own," said the Texan doubles expert, Shale and Newby, who has been on the circuit longer than most. "He is probably the finest athlete ever to play the game."

Ironically, considering he plays Noah at Wimbledon tonight, John McEnroe, the new-born, self-styled American from South Africa, was mentioned by Stewart

today with a morning match against Tony Chappell. Davis, particularly after his return to form at Toronto where he recently won the Canadian Masters title, is the favourite. He could meet Thorne in the quarter-finals at Preston and Dennis Taylor in the semi-finals.

Five first-season professionals, David Roe, Brian Rowswell, Ian Wright, Paul Gibson and the local favourite, Ken Owens, have qualified for the first round in which a total of 64 players are in contention.

High speed action from the world champions Dennis Taylor and Griffiths respectively. The tournament will continue until November 19, then take a two-day break, and resume on November 22. It finishes on November 30. All matches will be played on the basis of the best-of-17 frames except the final, which will be over 31. The winner will receive £60,000.

Today's matches: S Davis v T Chappell; G Charlton v W Harris; S Francisco v K Owens; D Reynolds v M Leonard; R Williams v D Jones; G Miles (100); W Thorne v J Murphy; M Leonard v R Owens; W Jones v W Williams; T Moore v G Boye; M Hallett v W King; R Rowswell v M Gibson (2.45).

Eleven of the world's top 16 players will be missing when television viewers switch on to the fifth round of the Mercantile Credit Classic at Blackpool on January 1.

By then a field of 115 would have been reduced to just 16 and among those will be four players who do not even figure on the top 100. Danny Fowler, a former dueman, and coalface worker, the Scottish teenager, Stephen Hendry, Wayne Jones, and Steve Duggan of Yorkshire are the quartet.

By tradition the Mercantile Credit Classic has thrown up some shock results and over the past two days at Blackpool's Norbeck Castle Hotel, the pattern has not changed.

Cliff Thorburn and Rex Williams were the last two major casualties. Dean Reynolds, of Grimsby, brought off his best result since turning professional in a match which lasted nearly four hours. Then veteran, Eddie Charlton, set to be outdone by the heroics of Rex Williams at the Rothmans' Grand Prix, defeated the WPBSA chairman

5-4 in another match which lasted five hours. In contrast, holder, Jimmy White, was home and dried in 54 minutes and Hendry, needed just 85 minutes to beat Jon Wright 5-1.

High speed action from the Englishman and the Scot but after such a long grueling evening few could have forecast the shocks that had hit the game. FIFTH ROUND DRAW: J White v S O'Sullivan; D Brown v J Jones; W Williams; T Moore v G Boye; M Hallett v W King; R Rowswell v M Gibson (2.45).

TENNIS

as the black player's nearest challenger. Proving that height is not everything in tennis, Noah has yet to beat the diminutive Kriek.

Last spring, Noah ruined his plans for a serious assault on Wimbledon by dropping a suitcase on his ankle and then compounding the injury by burning the laser-treated skin with chemical ice. That put him out for most of the summer and the injury is still restrictive.

Noah has always imagined he would give up tennis around the age of 27 — a milestone he will reach next May — to pursue other interests in the world of entertainment. "But I still feel I have so much to do in tennis. These injuries have held me back but, all the while, I feel I am getting better as a tennis player rather than just as an athlete. But it takes time and people tend to be so impatient with me. They see me having fun but don't realize what I have given up to get this far."

One thing Noah is giving up at the moment is the company of his Swedish wife, Cecilia, and their two baby children, Joachim and Yvelina. "I know the whirring has started about my marriage but the fact is that Cecilia stopped travelling with me after the US Open because it just got too difficult," said Noah. "One child was bad enough but two was ridiculous. And, anyway, tramping around after me is no life for a strong, intelligent, woman. She is now going to art school in New York and is really enjoying it."

Meanwhile Noah, a fierce and spectacular competitor but a very sensitive, even gentle, man, will continue to adorn the game with a special kind of grace — and that might even be seen to full effect at Wimbledon next year.

Finest athlete to play tennis

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

Richard Evans

YACHTING

White Crusader slips to fifth as gremlins strike

From Keith Wheatley, Fremantle

Gremlins were back aboard White Crusader in her race against French Kiss. The British team had a narrow lead at the start but was blown out of two spinners and a genoa before losing by more than four minutes to the French.

These injuries have held me back but, all the while, I feel I am getting better as a tennis player rather than just as an athlete. But it takes time and people tend to be so impatient with me. They see me having fun but don't realize what I have given up to get this far."

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JOHN CARROLL
HORSE...

LATEST AVERAGES FROM AUSTRALIA

England tour									
Batting and fielding					Bowling				
	M	R	HS	Avg	W	Wkts	Best	Avg	ECR
J J Whitaker	1	1	10	10.0	1	1	1	10.0	1
M A Foster	1	1	74	74.0	1	1	1	74.0	1
J T Bortham	1	1	272	272.0	1	1	1	272.0	1
G D Alley	1	1	33	33.0	1	1	1	33.0	1
B C Broad	1	1	148	148.0	1	1	1	148.0	1
P A DeFreese	1	1	11	11.0	1	1	1	11.0	1
P H Spong	1	1	22	22.0	1	1	1	22.0	1
M Richards	1	1	44.0	44.0	1	1	1	44.0	1
M W Gatting	1	1	58	58.0	1	1	1	58.0	1
J E Entwistle	1	1	37	37.0	1	1	1	37.0	1
M J Athey	1	1	18	18.0	1	1	1	18.0	1
G C Small	1	1	16	16.0	1	1	1	16.0	1

Australian Test career records									
Batting and fielding					Bowling				
	M	R	HS	Avg	W	Wkts	Best	Avg	ECR
D G Coon	1	1	1585	158.5	1	1	1	158.5	1
A R Border	1	1	84	84.0	1	1	1	84.0	1
M G Hughes	1	1	1	1.0	1	1	1	1.0	1
L J Larson	1	1	496	49.6	1	1	1	49.6	1
G F Lawson	1	1	38	38.0	1	1	1	38.0	1
G R Nairn	1	1	127	12.7	1	1	1	12.7	1
B A Rad	1	1	28	28.0	1	1	1	28.0	1
B A Rad	1	1	177	17.7	1	1	1	17.7	1
G R Nairn	1	1	13	13.0	1	1	1	13.0	1
T J Zoehrer	1	1	8	8.0	1	1	1	8.0	1

England tour									
Batting and fielding					Bowling				
	M	R	HS	Avg	W	Wkts	Best	Avg	ECR
J J Whitaker	1	1	10	10.0	1	1	1	10.0	1
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GOLF

Statistics show fine line between pain and gain

By Mitchell Platts

Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, finished the 1986 European golf season 448,800 richer than Philip Parkin, Wales, all because he hit one extra green per round in regulation.

That conclusion can be drawn from the Philips performance statistics issued following the most comprehensive survey of European golf ever conducted. Moreover it reflects how the line between success and failure on an increasingly competitive circuit is now even slimmer than the balata skin of a golf ball.

Forsbrand and Parkin, who were both born in 1961, each made significant progress in 1985, but whereas this year Forsbrand, with winnings of £84,706, climbed from 34th to eighth in the Epson Order of Merit, Parkin (£35,905) slipped from 32nd to 33rd.

Yet the astonishing assessment is that Parkin's progress would have been as electrifying as that of Forsbrand if he had managed to hit the target once more often each round with possibly no more than a seven iron in his hand.

The statistics comprise five categories and Parkin finished sixth in the "driving distance" category with an average of 268 yards - two yards ahead of Forsbrand. Neither Parkin nor Forsbrand can draw any confidence from their accuracy marks in the "fairways hit" category as they tied for 65th place with 50 per cent, managing to stray into the rough as often as they remained on the straight and narrow.

And it was from off the fairway that Forsbrand's marginally better performances dramatically changed his income so catapulting him into most observers' minds as a potential candidate for next year's European Ryder Cup team.

Forsbrand managed a 66 per cent strike rate in the greens hit in regulation category against Parkin's 59 per cent and that apparently minor difference in their games is responsible according to the statistics for their vastly contrasting earning power.

Forsbrand was only six places above Parkin in "sand saves" and his putting average per round was 29.06 com-

pared with Parkin's 29.11. Peter McEvoy, twice amateur champion, compiled the statistics on behalf of Philips Business Systems. He said: "It is clear that in Anders and Phil we have two players of immense potential but that Anders has slipped ahead simply through hitting that one extra green each round. It doesn't surprise me because it supports the general belief that the tour is so strong now that, as in America, if you are weak in only one department then it can prove extremely expensive."

"Consistency is such a feature of success in golf. You have only to look at the statistics and there are glaring examples of why a player should not have enjoyed a more successful year. Nick Faldo has changed his swing, for the better he thinks, yet he figures low in all the categories except sand saves and putting in which he is first and second respectively. Yet he still claims that it is his short game he must improve."

"But Sam Torrance is well aware that putting is his problem so he will be in full agreement with the statistics. He was joint first in driving distance, 12th in fairways hit, 23rd in sand saves but 50th in the putting category. He didn't win because he had two putts per round more than Mark Mouldand who led that category."

The statistics were compiled with the assistance of PGA European Tour volunteers at events in Britain and on the continent and the players were monitored throughout their rounds although it proved impracticable as far as driving distance was concerned, to measure more than two fairways each round.

Peter Senior, of Australia, (driving distance - 272 yards), John Bland, of South Africa, (fairways hit - 80 per cent), Sam Torrance and Bland (greens in regulation - 72 per cent), Faldo (sand saves - 81 per cent) and Mouldand (putting - 28.53 per round) were the leaders of the respective categories.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Statistics (Driving Distance, Fairways Hit, Greens in Regulation, Sand Saves, Putting Average). Includes names like Parkin, Forsbrand, Senior, Bland, Torrance, Faldo, Mouldand.

WOODS CHASES TITLE

Willie Wood will be trying to forget his disappointment in the CIS UK singles when he attempts today to win the Scottish title in a Special Correspondent writes. Wood has won a Commonwealth Games gold medal and a world championship silver but has never achieved what might seem to be the most modest objective - his own national title.

Wood is favourite to beat Auchinleck's Neil McGhee to reach the final, where his opponent could well be David Gourlay junior, of Prestwick, whose father partnered Wood in Scotland's world pairs team in 1984. Gourlay, aged 21 and the Scottish junior champion, has to beat Leslie Smith (Newton Stewart) to reach the final.

In the junior event, the charismatic Richard Corsie, aged 19, of Edinburgh, meets Frank McCartney, aged 27, of Irvine. Both have won the event before, in the other semi-final. Hugh Duff, the 23-year-old from Auchinleck, plays against William Watson, aged 18, of East Kilbride.

competing with April Sun in the British team in Toronto. Mr Sam Hignett, a British vet who acts as foreign veterinary delegate at several international shows, points out that it is possible for a horse to have been treated with the antibiotic several days before the competition but still have traces of the substance because horses eliminate these drugs at different rates.

April Sun, an eight-year-old gelding, made a dramatic return to top class show jumping this summer after being injured on the boat to Sweden for the World Cup final in April. If the horse is disqualified from the Liege Nations Cup as a result of this positive test, after the placings for that event, but Britain would still retain the Prince Philip Trophy as the country with the best Nations Cup results.

FOOTBALL



Game is the Spur: the men who stitched up Yugoslavia, Hoddle with a scar to show for it, Mabbutt with only a smile

Ton Pentre plan City take-over

By Paul Newman

For somebody whose country consistently produces some of the world's most admired players, Miljan Miljanic, Yugoslavia's national coaching director, is encouragingly enthusiastic about the values and quality of the English game.

"The difference is that English players are so fast and energetic, but think too little, while we think about the game intelligently but are indecisive," he said at lunchtime on Wednesday. It was a fairly precise analysis of what was to happen at Wembley a few hours later when England's characteristic determination overcame Yugoslavia's intelligence give or take some gratuitous fouls by both teams.

Miljanic is going to propose to Bobby Robson that the top 30 juniors in Yugoslavia should have an exchange deal with the FA's elite school at Lilleshall: a month's exclusive English coaching for the Yugoslav boys and the opposite for the English in Yugoslavia.

A further suggestion is that all English and Yugoslav first division clubs should have home-and-away friendly matches in August to maintain European contact during England's excursion. "There is no problem between our supporters," he says.

Twice the national manager for the World Cup, in 1974 and 1982, and outstandingly successful with Real Sar and then Real Madrid before a spell in Kuwait, Miljanic has one of the most fertile of coaching minds. He is pessimistic about the state of the international game.

The most damaging aspect of the contemporary pressures of commerce and over-competition, he says, is that there is no longer any role-model of excellence, at club or national level, as was formerly created by Horst and Hinzpeter, Sussner or Brazili, Real Madrid and Benfica, Ajax or The Netherlands, Bayern or West Germany, at which the rest can aim.

"The pressures are such nowadays that no team can sustain, or even repeat once, a major achievement," Miljanic says. "Only Liverpool have been able to do this. Last season Juventus lost to Barcelona, already Steaua have lost this season, and Barcelona nearly went out to an Albanian team. Russia are probably the best national team, yet they lost in Mexico to Belgium. They are different: their problem is that they are not professional enough."

Striking figure: Stunned silence attended the unveiling of Italy's 1990 World Cup mascot, pictured above.

Player exchange deal urged by Yugoslavia's top coach

By David Miller

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Big decline sets in after World Cup

By David Miller

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Mexican formula to be retained

By George Aco

Rome (Reuters) - The much-criticised formula of this year's World Cup finals in Mexico, including penalty shootouts to settle drawn matches, is likely to survive unchanged for the 1990 competition in Italy, International Federation of Football Associations (FIFA) secretary Joseph Blatter said today.

He added that the knock-out system of the final rounds was regarded by FIFA as fundamental to a cup competition. Italian organisers are proposing 12 sites, including the Sicilian and Sardinian capitals of Palermo and Cagliari, for venues. Turin, home of Juventus and Torino, has plans for a new stadium, and the Olympic Stadium in Rome needs to be enlarged. Other venues proposed by the organisers were Milan, Genoa, Verona, Udine, Bologna, Florence, Naples and Bari. Extensive work was needed to bring most stadiums up to standard.

Organisers revealed the mascot, a stylised player in red, white and green made from the letters of the word "Italia".

Barnet's loss of form coincided with a series of injuries which deprived them of up to five players, but only Gary Roberts and Keith Alexander are likely to be absent tomorrow. The manager, who recognises that their defeat in the first qualifying round against Dulwich Hamlet could eventually prove to be a blessing.

"Season after season you find that teams which have had a good run in the Cup then slump in the league," he said yesterday.

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Colourless pursuit of former glories cannot be ignored

By Gerald Davies

And should we, I wonder, care very much about what the French team is being asked to turn itself into? Or should we respond with our own version of the Gallic shrug, turn our backs, and walk away with indifference?

The strip of water is there to divide us and serve to emphasise that what happens on the other side is really of no concern of us. But we have every right to be angry. That something which aroused so much pleasure should now appear to be fading out of the world is a source of regret which stretches beyond the limits of boundaries.

The French, in supposedly coming to terms with the so-called realities of modern competition and the consequent desperate need to win, have sacrificed a good deal of that colour which ran, so inspirationally, through their veins. What might be expedient for one team is not necessarily true of another whose personality and substance differs. The French once appeared to be able to do with the ball as they wished, mesmerise their opponents and enchant the viewer. It was a spectacular game they played.

They did not ignore the more absolute necessities at forward. They have, after all, been punished, rugged there in their veins. But their means were always geared to a running attack.

They ran and changed direction at will. Perhaps a little more control was necessary at times. Yet, they now appear to have the freedom to express themselves in kept strictly under control until such time, usually late in the game, when the forwards have achieved a superiority. Elsewhere, it is a defensive mentality which prevails.

Charvet, initially, and Codorniu, as a result, find it difficult to get a place. To those in Toulouse, it is they who should form the centre of attack, and with a shortage of wingers, Sella and Bonneau should be moved further out. All this, from Toulouse, is speculation and opinion.

But the defensive attitude is confirmed in that curious tactic of getting the scrum half, Berbizier, to throw in at the line-out and to place the hooker, Dubroca, at scrum half. The reasoning ought to be that, in order to ensure as far as possible that France gains possession, they use their most accurate man to throw in. But Berbizier is not especially gifted in this way.

In which case, the determining factor for Fouroux, the coach, is that Dubroca, the heavier and more powerful man, should tighten things up at this set piece. This is the only apparent advantage. There is nothing much else he can do. In all other respects - kicking, passing, running and tactics which arise from these - Berbizier must be the superior man.

From what should be a source of useful possession from which to determine the manner of play, Lescarboura, the stand-off half, has a player inside him who is not capable of giving him the kind of service he deserves and which imposes severe limitations on the team as a whole.

The overall attitude is dominated by the class of '77 when France won the grand slam with a formidable pack of giants. Of that terrific team, Bastiat, Colley, Rocco, Estrine and Fouroux, then captain, are on the present selection panel of nine. The ambition is to recapture the influence of that team - but France are attempting to do so without the same quality of player at their disposal.

Alain Carminati, the Bezier No 8, has become the second player to withdraw through injury from the French side to play New Zealand at Nantes tomorrow. This brings to five the number of changes France have made since last weekend's 19-7 defeat in Toulouse.

Carminati left the field shortly after the interval in that match with a bruised vision after a clash with New Zealand's Fitzpatrick. The New Zealand hooker, it is not the huge lump on his forehead which prevents him from winning a third cap but a thigh injury. A similar injury forced Paul Egan out of the side on Wednesday.

Laurent Rodriguez, moves from flanker to fill the No-8 position and Dominique Ermi, who came on as Carminati's replacement last week, is brought into the team. His place as a replacement goes to the uncapped Toulouse captain, Karl Janz.

FITZPATRICK, who covered last week's game five, decided yesterday to repeat the exercise in Nantes. They do not have viewing figures yet for the Toulouse match but they feel it would be illogical to offer one game and not the other, despite technical problems encountered last week, mainly to do with quality of sound and timing.

Negotiations were going on yesterday with the Toulouse "compagnies" - seven managed the game from Toulouse - to see how many wished to screen the match.

Ermi, who came on as Carminati's replacement last week, is brought into the team. His place as a replacement goes to the uncapped Toulouse captain, Karl Janz.

RUGBY UNION

Colourless pursuit of former glories cannot be ignored

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FOR THE RECORD

Table with 2 columns: Event and Result. Includes Athletics (Richmond Park), Ice Hockey (North America), Rugby Union (Scottish Universities), Tennis (Chicago), and Cycling (Chicago).

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Table with 2 columns: Event and Results. Includes European Championship, Scottish Universities, and Rugby Union results.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

British squad count injuries. The Great Britain squad will be training at Lilleshall this weekend. The England player Vicky Dixon, who is unfit after a car accident at the weekend (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Also missing are Joan Dobie (Scotland), who is having checks on a knee injury, Susan Walters (Wales), who is ill, and Margaret Medlow, the Welsh captain, who has retired from the squad.

CORRECTION The dividends shown in the Pools Promoters Association advertisement which appeared in yesterday's edition of The Times referred to matches played on Saturday 1st November. These dividends were in fact for matches played on Saturday 8th November.

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SPORT

England keep an open mind on their two spinners

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Brisbane

The only surprise when England's choice for today's first Test match was announced yesterday afternoon was the inclusion, even among 12 players, of both Edmonds and Embury. The pitch seemed green enough for one spinner, let alone two, to have to expect very little bowling, anyway early in the game.

None too soon, Gower had been co-opted on to the selection committee. From the day the party was announced it had seemed unimaginative not to involve him in some such way. His experience alone equals that of the other four selectors - the captain, the vice-captain and the two managers - put together. Having been rejected, when he lost the captaincy, Gower was being made to feel it, and from what I hear it may have been starting to show.

England's choice

But they were all fit for selection, which is not often so, even at the start of a Test series. There are a few nigglers about, and a bruise or two, and Broad has a slightly troublesome wrist; but everyone was hoping to be chosen, none more than Foster and French, who are fighting the feeling that they are getting a raw deal.

Somerset pair keep their distance

Ian Botham and Peter Roebuck appeared on the same cricket ground in Brisbane yesterday - and studiously ignored each other.

Botham was hard at work during England's final practice before today's first Test against Australia. Roebuck, Somerset captain and part-time writer for The Sunday Times, chatted to several players but kept his distance from the all-rounder.

Last weekend, Botham confirmed his intention to quit Somerset over the Viv Richards/Joel Garner affair - and advised Roebuck against trying to change his mind.

"I suggest he stays in London, I think he will be safer there," Botham said. Both men denied reports of a planned afternoon meeting.

"Roebuck hasn't got in touch with me. I see no point in talking to him," Botham said. "All I am concentrating on is the Test match."

Roebuck, who backed Somerset's decision, said: "I have made no attempt to talk to Ian Botham. I wouldn't approach him on the eve of a Test, but a meeting could happen in the future, particularly if he initiated it."

Somerset have passed a vote of confidence in the secretary, Tony Brown, following criticism levelled at him during Saturday's special general meeting at Shepton Mallet.

The chairman, Michael Hill, said the secretary had been unjustly criticised in public for implementing committee decisions.

record for what were for so long the two greatest cricketing nations. It is not, I think, overstating it to say that in Australia the game of five-day Test cricket is fighting for its very life. Australians are fed up with losing.

For the corresponding Test match last year, which was in its fifth day when New Zealand won, the total attendance came to an embarrassing, nay alarming 16,044. Because England are the opposition, and in the fond hope of seeing the start of a new era, there will be more now. Heaven help us if there are not.

So the battle commences, and may it be a sporting one. Border has talked of "the verbal tête-à-tête" in Australia's recent series in India, especially during the tied Test match, as being unlike anything he had known before. His manager, Alan Crompton, admits, somewhat compromisingly, that the behaviour might not always have been acceptable "at other times in other places."

In the coming weeks there will be some bad umpiring decisions. There invariably are, and that is not peculiar to Australia. But Gattling and Border know well enough what is expected of them and what they owe to a great tradition. Although Australia are made warm favourites, the side fielding first must have the better chance of winning if they bowl anything like decently.

Play starts at 12.30pm London time, with a minimum of 90 overs to be bowled in a day, weather permitting. As dusk comes earlier here than in any of the other main Australian cities, and light is seldom not a factor in a Brisbane Test match.

Tour averages, page 37

Pakistanis are on their guard

Sialkot (Reuters) - Pakistani authorities yesterday acted to thwart crowd trouble at the third one-day international against West Indies here today, following interruptions to the second one-day match.

Apples and oranges have been banned from the ground to prevent the fruit being used as missiles, and spectators will also be searched for firecrackers and soft drink bottles as part of a security operation, government officials said.

During the match at Gujranwala last week sections of the large crowd threw bottles on to the pitch, as the fading light halted play. Subsequently, West Indies won on a faster scoring rate to take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bamford goes for broke

Five changes are made, and there are two additional positional changes, in the British squad to face Australia in the third and final international of the series at Wigan a week tomorrow. Thus, has the coach, Maurice Bamford, bowed to the inevitable following his loyalty to a well beaten team in the first two internationals?

It was obvious after the thrashing at Eland Road last Saturday that heads would have to roll, and the sacrificial lambs in the search for a team that can give the Australians a game are: Ledger, Marchant, Fox, Potter and Fieldhouse. In their places come the Widnes winger, John Bassett, the

Warrington centre, Ronnie Duane, his Warrington club-mate, scrum-half, Andy Gregory, the Hull Kingston Rovers forward, Chris Burton, and the Widnes loose forward, Harry Finner.

Bamford said yesterday: "Changes were inevitable after our first two internationals. I have now chosen men of proven power and aggression."

GREY BRISTOL: J. Lyden (Wigan), J. Bassett (Widnes), G. Schofield (Hull), R. Duane (Warrington), H. Gill (Wigan), A. Finlayson (Hull), G. Hogg (Wigan), J. Ward (Castleford), D. Widdowson (Hull FC), G. C. G. (Wigan), G. S. (Wigan), G. (Widnes), Substitutes: S. Edwards (Widnes), I. Patten (Wigan), Reserves: J. G. (Castleford), J. Fieldhouse (St Helens).

RUGBY UNION

Fouroux and the soul of French game

Jacques Fouroux, the French coach, is under considerable strain and he is showing it (Chris Thau writes). His controversial decision to curtail contact between French players and journalists has outraged the Press and is the latest development in increasingly bitter conflict between him and French media following the defeat in the first international in Toulouse.

He was savaged by the French Press. He was in a very defensive mood and blamed almost everybody - save himself - for the defeat. He felt that he was unfairly singled out and made a scapegoat for all French mishaps. Fouroux has also antagonised the Press



Cash advance: McEnroe's conqueror who went on to beat Casal yesterday to reach the quarter-finals at Wembley

Pate through to quarter-finals

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

David Pate will play Libor Pimek in one of today's quarter-finals of the Benson and Hedges championships at Wembley. That sort of thing is happening because five players seeded to reach the last eight - notably Stefan Edberg, Henri Leconte and John McEnroe - were beaten in the first round. Grand prix tennis in November is like a golf course with tees placed in bunkers.

It may or may not be relevant that Edberg and probably Leconte can already look forward to a big pay-day at the Masters Tournament in New York next month, whereas McEnroe is out of the running. Note, too, that Miloslav Mecir and Yannick Noah, two seeds who did make winning starts at Wembley, are still trying to make their Masters places secure.

Motivation and fitness count for a lot at this time of year. Some players are doing little more than meeting their commitment to play a fixed number of grand prix tournaments. In view of all that, November's grand prix results are not as surprising as many of them seem.

During the first two days at Wembley only 52 per cent of the singles results confirmed the rankings. By contrast the figure for Antwerp a week earlier - in a tournament of distinctive character, outside the grand prix - was almost 61 per cent. The implication that Antwerp was more genuinely competitive may be misleading, as statistics often are, but it seems reasonable to suggest that the customers at Wembley have been let down: by

the system, the players, or both. Wembley, after all, is a big event, carrying \$300,000 (about £210,000) in prize money. The organizers also have to find three sums of questionable merit about £42,000 for the grand prix bonus pool, and £10,500 and £7,000 in "administration" fees for the Association of Tennis Professionals and the grand prix council respectively. Such huge costs deserve a stronger line-up for the last eight than Wembley has today. Not that Pate and Pimek are bad players. Pate, who comes from Las Vegas and has been coached by Pancho Gonzalez, reached the semi-finals last year. Pimek, a Czechoslovak who lives in Antwerp, ranked 25th in the world at the end of 1984 but is now 50 places lower - and struggling.

Three months ago Pimek's endorsement agreement expired. His agents could not negotiate a new one and Pimek has been too busy to do much about it himself. "When you come to a tournament you have to cover your travelling expenses," he said yesterday, after having disposed of Leconte's conqueror Amos Mansdorf "and if you don't win two or three matches you don't make any money."

McEnroe has no such problems. On Wednesday evening he played a listless match against the fitter, stronger and altogether more businesslike Pat Cash - who reached the Wimbledon and United States semi-finals in 1984 and rose to eighth in the world - is exciting but not yet as pronounced as a win over McEnroe may suggest.

McEnroe was embarrassed and apologetic about his performance. But after more than six months out of the game he has made an encouraging comeback since August, winning four tournaments and, in the process, 17 consecutive matches. Only five men have beaten him. Except for an eight-man event in Atlanta the week after next, McEnroe can now rest and "regroup" as he puts it until the Australian championships two months hence.

Cash still has pressing business to attend to at Wembley. He reached the last eight with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Sergio Casal of Spain in a match featuring the last two players to beat McEnroe.

SECOND ROUND: L. Pate (2) vs A. Mansdorf (3), 6-3, 6-0; P. Cash (14) vs S. Casal (16), 6-3, 6-0.

Robson prepared to stick by Wright

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Bobby Robson unwittingly put one of his own England players on trial yesterday. In assessing the 2-0 victory over Yugoslavia on Wednesday night, he found himself arguing a case for and against Mark Wright, the villain in an otherwise heroic performance. The prosecution won convincingly.

There could scarcely be any defence for the defender whose international career has been littered with errors. Yet England's manager is so committed to Wright, in spite of his wrongs, that it would be surprising if he is not retained for the next fixture, a friendly in Spain in February.

Robson's loyalty, as well as being misplaced, is puzzling. As he went through the details of the previous night at Wembley, he kept reminding himself of Wright's alarming series of mistakes. "He went in too early when Vujovic broke through in the ninth minute and he left himself and us exposed."

Wright was at fault for not cutting out the cross when Hodge cleared off the line midway through the first half. He caused a flutter in everybody's hearts during the last half-hour when he had his name taken and we contrived to give them two clear openings through poor defensive play.

But for the profligacy of the Yugoslavs, and particularly of Zlatko Vujovic, the price England would have paid would almost certainly have been failure to qualify for the finals of the European Championships.

That they escaped from a damaging defeat and held on bravely for a potentially decisive victory should not cloud Robson's vision. After all, he can see for himself the solution to the central problem that has always existed alongside the reliable Butcher. The trouble is that the

Howe decision delayed

Don Howe, England's coach, may have to wait until next year before he knows whether he is to be appointed as Bobby Robson's full-time assistant (Stuart Jones writes). The Football Association's international committee met yesterday to discuss his role and agreed only to postpone a decision for at least another month.

The committee is playing a potentially dangerous game. Howe, who has been out of work since leaving the managerial post at Arsenal in

March, has already stated to The Times that he has reached the stage when he must, for the sake of his family, consider any other approaches that are made.

He has already rejected one substantial offer, believed to be from Aston Villa, and is eager to "put on a track suit again and return to the game in some capacity." He will not do so for England for another three months, by which time the committee will presumably have made their move.

Sterile display threatens impotent Irish

Northern Ireland seem destined for a period in the wilderness out of which even the inspired Billy Bingham, with his newly acquired desert knowledge in Saudi Arabia, may not be able to lead them. Their disappointing goalless draw against Turkey in Izmir on Wednesday in a European championship qualifier reflected failings, new and old.

Impotency in attack is a problem the Irish have had to live with even through more prosperous times; but the loss during the past 12 months of O'Neill and more recently McIlroy, the creative forces in midfield, have left Northern Ireland with a huge void to fill. Up front, the timely emergence of Clarke, following Hamilton's enforced retirement, cannot alone quench the thirst for goals, which add up to just eight in the last 14 matches.

Fleet of rescues raises doubts

By Barry Pickthall

With yet another call for assistance from among the fleet of single-handed sailors competing in the Route du Rhum Transatlantic race yesterday - this time from Louise Chambaz who has contracted an infection in her left arm and asked for help to sail her small trimaran back to her home port of La Trinité - many are questioning the wisdom of sending a fleet of solo yachtsmen out into the north Atlantic in November.

A winter gale has been blowing relentlessly ever since the race began from St Malo on Sunday, producing a string of early casualties that are certainly taxing French rescue authorities.

First to falter was the British-designed catamaran, Lada Tech, which was dismasted within 20 minutes of the start, followed shortly by the capsize of Herve Cleris' multihull, FNAC.

During that first night, Neams Luang (formerly Exmouth Challenge) and Apricot both suffered extensive damage in collisions and, on Wednesday, Eric Tabary and fellow Frenchman, Dominique Marsaudon, both had to be rescued after their craft had begun to disintegrate in high seas off Cap Finistere.

Five others have managed to limp into port to effect minor repairs and three more, including the present leader,

More failures than there should be

Loic Caradec, sailing the 85ft wing-masted catamaran Royale, plan to call in at the Azores before continuing the chase through the Trade Winds belt across the Atlantic to the French island of Guadeloupe in the West Indies.

The winter gales have certainly played a major part in decimating the 33 strong fleet but the disintegration of two French multihulls at sea places a serious question mark over the strength and integrity of these craft.

"There is no question that there have been more failures than there should be," Nigel Irens, Britain's leading multihull designer, said yesterday. "But one must not confuse these boats with standard production designs. They are designed and built close to the edge of what will survive to be competitive and the lessons we learn are then incorporated into standard designs" he said.

Commenting on the timing of this race, Irens said: "Undoubtedly, setting out into a winter gale is dangerous, but danger is one of the reasons why sponsors and the public take such a keen interest in this sport. Most people lack excitement in their lives but this race is raw adventure and, for the same reason that motor

Irens' first loss in ten-year career

racing is so popular, people like to see others balancing on a knife edge."

The loss of Tony Bullimore's Apricot, wrecked on rocks off Brest on Monday, is the first loss Irens has suffered during his ten-year career as a designer and builder of multihulls. Launched early last year, this high-tech yacht proved a significant breakthrough both in design and construction having benefitted greatly from the input from Martin Smith, chief stress analyst at British Aerospace, whose knowledge of composite structures helped to produce a boat that was lighter and stronger than rival craft.

Fleury Michon VIII, another of Irens' designs now challenging Royale for the lead in the race, has also benefitted from Martin's experience, while many of the French boats have been built to low budgets without the benefit of research and development. It is this that has led to Irens' beliefs of a history of failures in this race, and others.

Robin Knox-Johnston, the first to sail around the world alone, also came to the defence of single handed sailing yesterday. "Sailing alone has always been a hard sport but those who choose to compete know, and accept, that the only lives at risk are their own."

LEADING POSITIONS (with average to Guadeloupe): 1. Neams Luang (Challenge), 267 miles; 2. Fleury Michon VIII (Philippe Poupon), 267.5 miles; 3. Challengeur L'Esprit Solaire (Gwenael Huet), 268.5 miles; 4. Herve Cleris (FNAC), 269 miles; 5. Eric Tabary (Apricot), 270 miles.

America's Cup on page 37

Advertisement for 'THE FIELD' magazine. Text: 'GET 2 ISSUES FREE WHEN YOU TAKE THE NEW MONTHLY FIELD'. Includes details about the magazine's content and a subscription form.

Advertisement for 'Bamford goes for broke' by Keith Macklin. Text: 'Five changes are made, and there are two additional positional changes, in the British squad to face Australia in the third and final international of the series at Wigan a week tomorrow. Thus, has the coach, Maurice Bamford, bowed to the inevitable following his loyalty to a well beaten team in the first two internationals?'

Advertisement for 'Christie to box Sibson' and 'Whitbread top'. Text: 'Tony Sibson, twice winner of the British middleweight title, could be in line to take the championship belt tonight. Sibson, the Commonwealth champion, has been named to box Errol Christie in a final eliminator for the title held by Brian Anderson, of Sheffield. Sibson, from Leicester, has Sibson, from Leicester, has returned to middleweight after losing to Dennis Andries, in a world light-heavyweight contest.'

Advertisement for 'New squad' and 'Doubles win'. Text: 'The British Cycling Federation has formed a young new national squad with a view to reaping a big crop of medals at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. The men's and women's selections, announced yesterday, have major targets next year in the Milk Race, the women's Tour de France and the world championships in Austria, but their long term sights are set on South Korea. Paul Nicholls and Norwood Cripps won the invitation doubles tournament at Queen's Club on Wednesday, beating John Freeman and Thomas Brudenell 4-15, 15-5, 15-2, 15-5, 9-15, 15-11. The competition was devised by the sponsors, Celestion Loudspeakers, to show top-class rackets to schools - where the preliminary rounds were played. This was the first year that the format was doubles.'

Advertisement for 'America's Cup on page 37' and 'TODAY'S FIXTURES'. Text: 'TODAY'S FIXTURES: SNOCROCK: Tournaments UK Open, 10.00; GUILDFORD: Football, 10.00; WIMBORNE: Football, 10.00; WIMBORNE: Football, 10.00; WIMBORNE: Football, 10.00.'